# THE TIMES

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Caitlin Moran on Boris

**The Augustus Gloop of politics**

INSIDE TIMES2

There would be no Hamlet without Hamnet
Maggie O'Farrell

# Only 1 per cent of lost or stolen Covid grant cash recovered

**James Hurley**

The scandal surrounding taxpayers' money lost to pandemic fraudsters has deepened as it emerged that the government has only recovered 1 per cent of grant money wrongly paid out to companies during the Covid-19 crisis.

The National Audit Office (NAO) said yesterday that of the £1.1 billion of state business grants lost to fraud or error, only £11.4 million had been recovered.

It follows warnings by MPs on the public accounts committee that billions of pounds of public cash are at risk from a complacent approach to recovering "eye-watering" sums lost in other emergency programmes. These include the £70 billion furlough scheme and the £47 billion bounce back loan scheme.

Lord Agnew of Oulton, the former counter-fraud minister, told the government last night to "get its act together" and step up recovery efforts.

On the third anniversary of the first lockdown being implemented in England, the NAO revealed that councils had made little progress in securing vast amounts lost to business grant fraud. About £26.6 billion worth of emergency grants were provided for businesses and issued via local authorities. More than 300 councils issued a combined 4.5 million grant payments between March 2020 and March last year across eight separate schemes. The grants were mostly paid via the business rates system, the tax for commercial property occupants.

Much of the funding went to companies in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors that had been disrupted or forced to close by Covid restrictions.

Gareth Davies, head of the National Audit Office, said government and local authorities deserved "credit for working quickly to set up and distribute grants to businesses". However, the public spending watchdog found that

**Continued on page 2**

# Council tax tops £2,000 as rates rise for 11th time

## Average yearly bill to climb £99 higher

**Arthi Nachiappan**
Economics Correspondent

Households are facing more financial pain as mortgage bills rise, cost of living payments end and the average council tax exceeds £2,000 for the first time.

More than a million homeowners with variable rate mortgages will spend hundreds of pounds more a year on repayments after an eleventh consecutive interest rate rise by the Bank of England yesterday, which took the cost of borrowing to 4.25 per cent.

Millions will pay £67 more a month for energy from April as the government's cash boost of £400 in six instalments to help with fuel bills winds down. It is the latest hit to incomes after the release of government figures showing that council tax for a band D property will reach a record £2,065 in the financial year beginning next month. The average yearly bill is £99 higher than its present level, a 5.1 per cent rise.

The Bank of England pushed up the cost of borrowing by a quarter of a percentage point to its highest level in nearly 15 years amid concerns that inflation will persist. In December 2021 interest rates were at a historic low of 0.1 per cent. It is the fastest tightening of monetary policy since the Bank took responsibility for interest rates in the late 1990s.

Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, backed the rise, saying the Treasury would "play our part … by being responsible with the public finances".

In a glimmer of hope for struggling households, the Bank has joined the Office for Budget Responsibility in upgrading its forecasts to predict that a recession would be avoided this year. It revised up its expectation for growth in the second quarter, with GDP now expected to rise slightly rather than fall by 0.4 per cent after the government announced plans to extend its energy price guarantee by three months. The measure, to keep the average household energy bill down to £2,500, is also expected to help bring inflation down faster over the three-month period.

Andrew Bailey, the Bank governor, said that inflation was expected to fall quite rapidly before the summer, adding: "Low and stable inflation is the foundation of a healthy economy. Raising rates is the best tool to bring inflation down."

The consumer prices index — the headline measure of inflation — surprised forecasters with a rise to 10.4 per cent last month from 10.1 per cent at the start of the year. It has been blamed on stubbornly high food prices. Economists had predicted a fall to below 10 per cent, continuing the decline from a 41-year high of 11.1 per cent in October. The Bank's target is 2 per cent.

Rate-setters said borrowing costs should rise because, although wage rises in the private sector were slower than expected and unemployment remained low, there were signs that strong demand in the UK and overseas was being driven by more than just the fall in energy prices.

The cost of living crisis has mainly

**Continued on page 2**

BBC STUDIOS/LEE BRIMBLE



**BBC hits brakes on Top Gear**

**Andrew "Freddie" Flintoff, co-presenter of Top Gear with Paddy McGuinness, left, and Chris Harris, is quitting the show after a crash in December left him traumatised. The BBC has abandoned filming of the next series and there are doubts about whether the long-running hit will return.** **News, page 5**

# Coffee drinkers 1,000 steps ahead of the rest

**Tom Whipple** Science Editor

Your coffee habit might be playing havoc with your sleep app statistics but don't worry — it will be doing wonders for your step count.

A study has suggested that on days people drink coffee they sleep worse, but walk further. When people were able to drink as much coffee as they wanted, they took about 1,000 more daily steps, according to the research in the New England Journal of Medicine. On days when the same people had enforced abstinence, however, they slept about 30 minutes longer.

Gregory Marcus, from the University of California, San Francisco, said that the sleep findings were variable: some people were able to metabolise caffeine fast and saw no impact; others regularly lost an hour. "I think this probably fits with different people's experience. We all know someone who says, 'I can have a coffee before I go to bed and I sleep fine.' They may not be lying," he said.

A hundred people were randomly assigned to drink coffee or not on different days over two weeks, allowing the study to explore causality.

This does not mean the findings will go unchallenged. The study reimbursed the participants for their coffees. One possible counter-explanation is that on the coffee days people went further to buy from fancy cafés — after all, the scientists were paying. Marcus said, however, that this did not tally with the participants' reports, or the receipts they provided.

There was another problem that could explain part of the effect: coffee withdrawal. The research involved questioning participants. "Some of them were not at all happy on the days they didn't get coffee," Marcus said. It is possible, he conceded, that on non-coffee days people were simply too grumpy to walk far.

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VISIT…

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# Today's highlights

**8.20am** **Wes Streeting**, shadow health secretary
**2pm** The transgender comedian **Julia Scotti** on the new documentary about her life
**6.15pm** The historian and broadcaster **Dan Snow**, right, on the hunt for the missing head of a shark that washed up in Hampshire
**6.35pm** **Emily Scott**, author and chef who cooked for G7 leaders at the summit in Cornwall
**9pm** **Alice Loxton** on her book *Uproar! Satire, Scandal and Printmakers in Georgian London*



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## TODAY'S EDITION

### Four-day strike by doctors
Junior doctors will strike for four consecutive days next month after the health secretary rejected their "unreasonable" 35 per cent pay demand. NHS leaders expect 250,000 appointments and operations to be cancelled as a result of the walkout. **Page 4**

### Johnson on campaign trail
Boris Johnson will step up campaigning in his constituency in case he is sanctioned over the Downing Street lockdown parties scandal. A ten-day suspension from the Commons could trigger a by-election in Uxbridge & Ruislip. **Page 6**

### Guilty in organ harvesting case
A wealthy Nigerian politician, his wife and a doctor were convicted over organ harvesting after a donor was trafficked so his kidney could be taken. Ike Ekweremadu plotted to arrange a transplant for his daughter at a London hospital. **Page 11**

COMMENT
### Donald Trump has chosen his enemies with remarkable care, or astonishing good fortune
GERARD BAKER, PAGE 27

### Million march against Macron
An increasingly violent and radical protest movement was emerging against President Macron's unpopular plan to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64, as more than a million people took to the streets across France yesterday. **Page 30**

### Russia warns against arrest
Russia has warned that any attempt to enforce an International Criminal Court arrest warrant for President Putin would be viewed as a declaration of war. Dmitry Medvedev vowed that Moscow would respond immediately with missile attacks. **Page 30**

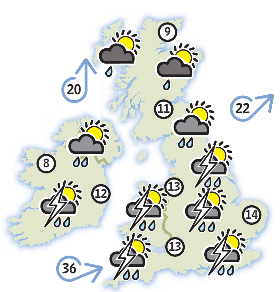
### Accenture to cut 19,000 jobs
Accenture has announced plans to cut 19,000 jobs, about 2.5 per cent of its workforce. The business, one of the world's biggest consultancy groups, will become the latest in the sector to implement sweeping layoffs. **Page 35**

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THE WEATHER




Showery rain across Scotland and Ireland, thundery showers elsewhere. **Full forecast, page 59**

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# Energy firms 'forced National Grid to pay them higher prices'

**Emily Gosden** Energy Editor

Energy companies have received more than half a billion pounds from consumers by using a controversial trading manoeuvre to demand higher prices for generating power, according to new analysis.

Gas and coal power plant owners including Vitol's VPI, Uniper and SSE opted not to generate electricity through Britain's main power market, forcing National Grid to pay them much higher prices through a separate market to prevent blackouts, a Bloomberg investigation found.

Downing Street yesterday described the behaviour as "completely unacceptable", while MPs described it as "morally wrong" and a "scandal".

The costs National Grid incurs are ultimately paid for by households and businesses on their energy bills. The total sum companies obtained through this behaviour between 2018 and 2022 reached £525 million, with almost 90 per cent of this during the past two years, according to the investigation.

Ofgem has already raised concerns over this practice, saying it contributed to an "alarming" increase in the costs of keeping the lights on in the winter of 2021-22, and has proposed changes to prevent generators making "excessive" sums in this way in future.

The regulator concluded last year that power plant owners had been "intentionally exacerbating tight margins" by announcing at short notice that they were not planning to generate prior to peak demand and so would not be selling electricity through the main wholesale market.

When there is a forecast shortfall in power from the main market, National Grid pays for extra plants — typically gas or coal-fired stations — to generate through another market, the "balancing mechanism". Power plant owners told the main market they would not be generating, only to offer "persistently high prices, inflexible and expensive offers" to generate through the balancing market, the regulator said.

Ofgem said it had found "no conclusive evidence" of generators breaking any rules but was "concerned that evidence showed behaviours of some generators that appear to be immoderate".

The costs of the balancing market hit more than £1.3 billion in winter 2021-22, up from £550 million the previous year. They fell slightly to just under £1.1 billion this winter, according to National Grid.

The Bloomberg investigation offers new insight into the extent to which these costs were driven by the controversial trading manoeuvre. The gas and coal plants that have benefited from it are not subject to any windfall tax.

An Ofgem spokeswoman said it was preparing to introduce a licence condition that would "prohibit generators from affecting the balancing mechanism in this way for excessive financial gain" and expected to make a final decision this summer.

A spokesman for VPI said: "VPI is a responsible participant in the UK power market. VPI abides by all relevant regulations." An SSE spokesman said: "SSE fully complies with all relevant rules and regulations and it notes that following an independent review of the balancing mechanism, which included the periods in question, Ofgem confirmed that it found no specific evidence of behaviour inconsistent with market rules."

A Shell spokesman said: "We operate in compliance with legal and regulatory obligations and in line with market practice." Uniper had not responded to requests for comment.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
## Covid fraud

"the government does not know the impact of these grants — in terms of maintaining jobs or how much support might have been given to businesses which did not need it". It said a judgment on whether they were value for money therefore "remains open".

John Webber, a business rates expert, said the lack of recoveries on the grant schemes was a serious error as councils should have details of every ratepayer issued with a grant. He noted that many businesses that didn't need the funding qualified, including holiday home owners benefiting from a staycation boom.

Meg Hillier, the public accounts committee chairwoman, urged the government to learn lessons "so it can be on the front foot for the next crisis".

The NAO report comes weeks after the committee described efforts by HM Revenue & Customs to reclaim funds wrongly provided under the furlough scheme as woeful. It noted that of an estimated £2.3 billion paid to bosses who claimed cash for employees who continued to work, in breach of the rules, only 0.03 per cent had been recovered. MPs said that rogue employers were "running rings around" officials.


Suitcases stuffed full of Covid loan cash seized at UK border

TIMES INVESTIGATION
George Greenwood Investigations Reporter
James Hurley Enterprise Editor

Suitcases filled with cash from tax- people at airports across Britain "carrying large amounts of money suspected [as being] from coronavirus bounce-back loans".
Other recipients of financial support used it to fund gambling sprees, home improvements, cars and watches. the loans before immediately transferring the funds into personal bank accounts and spending the cash on themselves instead of their companies.
About £47 billion was paid out in loans as part of the scheme. It has been estimated that as much as £17 billion of the iceberg", with most of those responsible unlikely to face any sanction because of the "sheer volume" of abuse.
David Clarke, former head of fraud for City of London police and ex-chairman of the Fraud Advisory Panel, said that the "startling" revelations "proved fund poker games after claiming his company turned over £200,000.
● One businessman breached rules by securing more than ten loans for companies in the same corporate group.
● A sandwich-shop owner received a £35,000 loan before using it to fund the

The Times revealed in an investigation last year how some loans were spent

Last year the committee said it was unacceptable that ministers had "no long-term plans for recovering overdue debt" in the bounce back scheme. The Times revealed how it had been exploited for gambling sprees, home improvements, luxury cars and watches.

Agnew, who quit as counter-fraud minister last year, said: "There are still hundreds of millions, if not billions, of pounds on the table awaiting collection for the benefit of the taxpayer. It needs only for HMRC, the Treasury and relevant departments to collectively get their acts together."

A spokesman for the Department for Business and Trade, said: "No amount of error and fraud is acceptable, and we are continuing to work hard to recover these funds where possible."

The government has also said it is "committed to bearing down on fraud" in the bounce back scheme.

**UK 'less prepared for a pandemic than before Covid', page 10**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
## More pain for households

been driven by the higher cost of energy and food, which has squeezed household incomes. However, wholesale gas prices have more than halved in recent months, and some forecasters have said that this could push energy bills below the £2,000 threshold later this year.

The Bank said in its February projections that it expected inflation to more than halve to 4 per cent by the end of the year.

The council tax increase will be another blow for householders. Rishi Sunak has allowed local authorities to impose bigger rises to help fund social care. As a result, 151 of the 153 top-tier councils are applying some or all of the maximum 2 per cent "precept" for social care.

The biggest percentage rise in council tax will be in London, where bills for an average band D property will increase by 6.2 per cent. Band D applies to properties valued at between £68,001 and £88,000 while band E covers the next level in values up to £120,000. Band F covers properties valued up to £160,000. The top band H applies to properties valued at more than £320,000. The banding is based on property valuations as they were on April 1, 1991, in England and Scotland, and April 1, 2003, in Wales, so the figures bear no relation to the property values of today. They perform a comparative function. Metropolitan areas outside London will see bills rise by 5.1 per cent to an average of £2,059, while largely rural parts of the country will see an increase of 5 per cent to just below £2,140.

**The rate rise cycle may be nearing its peak, leading article, page 29**
**Off the pace, Alistair Osborne, page 37**
**Markets bet on an end to rises, page 38**

### Analysis

**The Bank of England followed other big central banks in raising interest rates despite fears over the health of the global banking system (Mehreen Khan writes).**

**The 25 basis-point tightening followed a similar move by the US Federal Reserve on Wednesday. The European Central Bank (ECB) defied market pressure with a 50 basis-point tightening last week.**

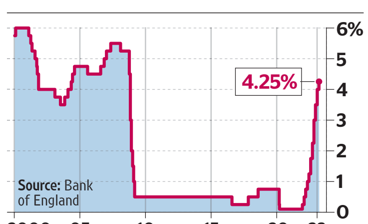
**Unlike the Fed or the ECB, the Bank's monetary policy committee (MPC) refrained from dire warnings about stress in the banking system.**

**There is little evidence so far of market contagion spreading to British lenders.**

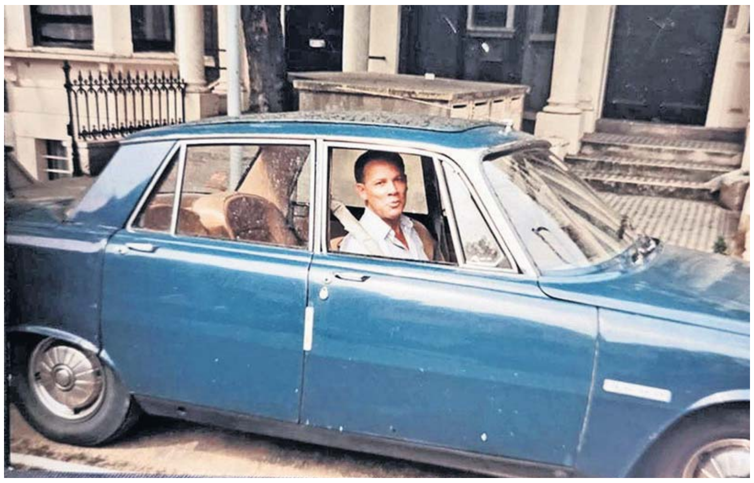
**The MPC said it would raise rates again in the event of "more persistent inflationary pressures" but, for the first time since the war in Ukraine began, rate setters said wage price pressures were softening more than expected.**

**The nine-strong MPC will make updated projections in May. By then inflation could be declining sharply as energy price rises drop out of the yearly inflation measure.**

### UK interest rates




Source: Bank of England



# Hundreds in scramble for a place at RAF hero's funeral



Flight Sergeant Peter Brown died in December aged 96. Neighbours feared that his funeral would be sparsely attended

Undertakers have been overwhelmed after neighbours made a plea for a fitting farewell, **Poppy Koronka** and **Jack Blackburn** report

Flight Sergeant Peter Brown was a solitary man, but he was not a lonely one. He never married or had children, but his neighbours fondly remember him and his morning routine, walking to Dhig's newsagents for a copy of The Sun and a Dairy Milk bar, followed by an occasional chat about the cricket.

When Brown, a Second World War veteran, died in December, aged 96, the neighbours feared that his funeral would be poorly attended, so they put out a call to find any distant relations or friends who might be out there.

Now, thanks to their work, the crematorium will not be able to accommodate all the mourners expected at the service next Wednesday.

The funeral directors, W Sherry and Sons, have been overwhelmed with requests to attend and have urged people not to come unless they knew Brown. It is thought that attendance will far exceed the Mortlake Crematorium's capacity of 120 people.

Born in 1926, Brown was only 17 when he enlisted in the volunteer reserve in 1943. Originally from Jamaica, it is thought that he travelled across the Atlantic to fight against Nazism. He trained as a radio operator and air gunner before going on to fly in Lancaster bombers, one of 450 young men from the Caribbean to do so.

He continued to serve after the war, leaving the forces in the 1950s. He worked for the Ministry of Defence and was a member of the Marylebone Cricket Club.

The call for people to attend his funeral was initially started by locals. Brown was much loved by his neighbours, who are also seeking to raise funds for a book of remembrance or a plaque in his honour.

Locals of Little Venice, Maida Vale, remember him fondly. Anabella, 59, a housekeeper for one of his neighbours, said he had always used to make her smile. "He was an amazing person. I've never come across anyone as polite as him, he was such a nice man," she said. "For me, he was just a friend. I would come here in the morning and if I was upset or something he would say hello and just … it brightens your day, to see someone so humble and so simple." Anabella made him pies regularly. She said that Brown used to "adore" the Queen, and that his health had started to go downhill after she died.

"I don't think that nowadays we come across very many people like he was. He was so humble. It's just hard to wrap my head around, that I'm not going to see him coming out of [the house] anymore," she said. "We did as much as we could. It was his time. I'm just very upset that he died alone."

Jassie Tailor, 40, who works at Dhig's corner shop where Brown shopped every morning, said: "We've known him for a long time. He was an independent guy basically. He didn't like any help from anyone — nothing.

"He was interested in the sport. We'd sometimes chat about the cricket or some football."

Tailor said he had given Brown the phone number for the shop, in case it was raining and he couldn't walk on his own.

Darshna Patel, 50, who also works at Dhig's, said she was hopeful that they could find relatives before the funeral. "I really hope they find whoever he needs — somebody to give their final goodbye," she said.

"Maybe in the past he must have written letters to his family or something when he was serving. I really wish to find somebody to come forward. But here, he never had [anybody], he never mentioned anyone, he never came [with] anybody."

The urgent appeal was supported by The Sun and Rishi Sunak, the prime minister, added his voice to the effort, calling Brown an example "of the selfless contribution of all Commonwealth personnel who have served the RAF".

"I hope that the nation gets behind this Sun campaign," Sunak said. "We've also arranged for an RAF trumpeter to attend the funeral, alongside a senior RAF officer." Ben Wallace, the defence secretary, the veterans' minister Johnny Mercer, and Tom Tugendhat, the security minister, all tweeted their support.



A joint statement from Westminster city council and Royal Air Forces Association said: "The public response for the call out for relatives and friends of Peter Brown has been both heart-warming and overwhelming. His story of valour and modesty has touched many who rightly wish to pay their own tribute for his service to this nation, his adopted home for so many years.

"Many people have asked to attend the small funeral service, which is already well beyond the capacity of the chapel. We are … exploring ways in which Mr Brown can be honoured on a scale befitting of his role, the details of which we hope to announce shortly."

Tailor, Patel and Anabella all hope to attend the funeral on Wednesday. Even the postmen on their morning rounds said they would attend to say goodbye.

A fitting send-off, leading article, page 29

# Queen's life of service turned Tony Robinson off republicanism

Jack Blackburn

To the upper classes, Baldrick was always a good and faithful servant (well, faithful at any rate), but the actor who played Blackadder's dogsbody was less reverential.

Sir Tony Robinson was a republican in the days before he was knighted, but says his mind was changed by the service of the "extraordinary" late Queen. He has also expressed support for King Charles, saying he is "clearly a man of integrity" who has been "profoundly prescient" on some issues.

Talking to Jane Garvey and Fi Glover on *Off Air*, a Times Radio podcast, Robinson described the shift in his politics and noted how important a factor the late Queen was in his change of mind.

"I would have said in my early days that I was a republican," he said. "My attitude is more complex than that. I recognise that throughout my life, this rather extraordinary, demure woman who was our Queen did an extraordinary job of holding our country together at a time when it could have fractured much more than it did."



Tony Robinson says King Charles is a man of integrity

Politics is more than a passing interest for Robinson.

Best known as an actor and historian, having presented Channel 4's archaeology show *Time Team*, he has long been politically active on the left. After years of charity work, trade unionism and serving on the Labour Party's national executive committee, Robinson received his knighthood for public and political service in the 2013 Queen's birthday honours.

However, this creates a tension in his views on the monarchy. His left-wing credentials make him sceptical of the Crown's role in legislation, but he has little truck with the more revolutionary end of the spectrum, which might threaten the institution.

"It seems to me that it would be rather boorish to chop Charles's head off, for instance, which might have happened had we been French in the 18th century," he said. "Nevertheless, I have huge issues about whether or not the monarch should be able to affect and even change our legislation."

Looking to the new era, Robinson said that the King was perhaps unfairly traduced when he was the Prince of Wales and was raising concerns about issues close to his heart.

"He clearly is a man of integrity," Robinson said. "He did seem a bit of a twit — all the stuff that he was saying about what is now a central issue to us, the environment, just seemed like a mad old man talking to trees. And now, an awful lot of what he said was profoundly prescient."

MAX WILLCOCK/BNPS



**Safety net** Katie Darragh and Mel Keepin stood by to prevent disaster as a 200-year-old chandelier was lowered for cleaning by a workman at Longleat, Wiltshire

# Easter strike by junior doctors 'poses real risk to patient safety'

**Eleanor Hayward**
Health Correspondent
**Kat Lay, Chris Smyth**

Junior doctors will strike for four consecutive days next month after the health secretary rejected their "unreasonable" 35 per cent pay demand during acrimonious talks.

NHS leaders expect 250,000 appointments and operations to be cancelled as a result of the 96-hour walkout from 7am on Tuesday, April 11 until 7am on Saturday, April 15.

Senior doctors warned that lives would be "at risk" during the strike, the biggest in NHS history. It falls during the Easter holidays, when it will be difficult to arrange consultant cover.

While the government last week struck a deal with other striking health unions, attempts to start negotiations with the British Medical Association broke down on Wednesday in just half an hour, with both sides branding the other "intransigent".

Steve Barclay, the health secretary, said he had hoped to begin constructive talks with the BMA's junior doctors' committee. He added: "They placed a precondition on these talks of a 35 per cent pay rise. That is unreasonable. My door remains open to constructive conversations, as I have had with other health unions."

A Whitehall source said the union team had been "totally intransigent", adding: "They wanted the government to pay their exam fees and free parking — and a mechanism to ensure they don't experience any pay erosion in the future. And they said these were their preconditions for talks about pay."

Announcing the strike dates, Dr Vivek Trivedi and Dr Robert Laurenson, co-chairmen of the BMA junior doctors' committee, said: "The government has dragged its feet at every opportunity. It has not presented any credible offer and is refusing to accept that there is any case for pay restoration, describing our central ask as 'unrealistic' and 'unreasonable'. In a message to junior doctors describing the meeting, Laurenson described Barclay as "bizarre and incompetent".

He said: "Steve reiterated that our deal was unreasonable and that he couldn't continue the talks, but before he left, I looked him in the eye and told him that he's quibbling over pounds when we're talking about an actual workforce crisis that has led to huge excess death."

Laurenson said BMA representatives had been asked by the Department of Health to keep details of pay negotiations confidential, the same basis on which talks with other NHS unions were held, but that this was "unacceptable" and "unconscionable".

Hospital bosses fear the escalation in strike action will make it impossible to meet targets to bring down record waiting lists of 7.2 million patients, one of Rishi Sunak's top priorities.

More than 175,000 appointments and operations were cancelled during a three-day walkout last week as senior medics were redeployed to provide cover in A&E.

Matthew Taylor, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, said: "Based on last time, it seems likely that up to a quarter of a million appointments and operations may need to be postponed as a result of this next wave of strikes.

"Complicating matters further is the fact that leaders are unlikely to be able to call again on consultants in the same way to fill-in rota gaps, due to many having accumulated leave from providing cover during the first strikes. This poses a huge challenge to services already stretched by having too few staff, so another walkout poses a real risk to patient safety."

Senior doctors are now under pressure to intervene in the dispute amid concerns about the impact on patients.

More than one million staff, including nurses and paramedics, will get a 5 per cent pay rise from next month, as well as a one-off cash bonus if they accept a deal announced last week.

## Analysis

**The dispute between junior doctors and the government is becoming increasingly bad-tempered (Kat Lay writes).**

**There were hopes of a breakthrough when the British Medical Association agreed to pause strikes to begin talks. But those discussions have fallen apart almost before they began.**

**Steve Barclay, the health secretary, tweeted that the union "placed a precondition on these talks of a 35 per cent pay rise".**

**Rob Laurenson, co-chairman of the BMA's junior doctors committee, said that was not true, adding: "No preconditions from us."**

**A BMA spokeswoman added: "We have set absolutely no preconditions. Thirty-five per cent is our starting position, and we are willing to meet anywhere, any time to negotiate on how we get there."**

**The doctors' leaders — many of whom are leftwingers elected on a platform of full pay restoration — appear more bullish than the leaders of nursing and ambulance unions who recently negotiated a pay offer from ministers.**

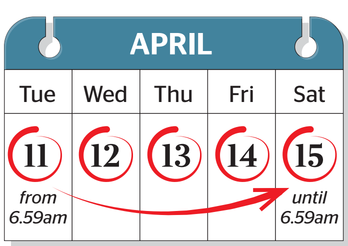
**Laurenson says it is "unacceptable" that the content of pay meetings be kept from members but Whitehall insiders believe confidentiality was a key element of other unions' success.**

**The disruption will come after the four-day Easter weekend, also likely to disrupt services.**

**It also takes place a week after many junior doctors rotate to new departments. NHS leaders fear this may exacerbate the disruption because there will be no existing relationships between managers and the striking juniors.**

**It is patients who are caught in the middle.**

### The 96-hour walkout




## Quintagram® No 1584

**Solve all five clues using each letter underneath once only**

**1** Young goat (3)

_ _ _

**2** Picasso's forename (5)

_ _ _ _ _

**3** Decompression sickness (3,5)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

**4** Information technology device (8)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

**5** One suffering memory loss (8)

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**Solutions** T2 MindGames p19
**Cryptic clues** T2 MindGames p18

### Schoolboy dies in Alps

An 18-year-old Briton killed in an avalanche in the Swiss Alps was a schoolboy on a ski trip with fellow students. His body was found buried under snow on Tuesday. A search for a second skier who is missing, a female American student, was called off on Wednesday. The students attended the Swiss boarding school Ecole d'Humanité, and were part of a group of 12 on a ski tour near the resort of Meiringen. Five other pupils and a mountain guide were also on the tour.

### Gene-edited food

Food that has been gene-edited can be developed for sale in British shops under a law passed yesterday. The National Farmers Union said it was delighted with the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill, which will allow scientists to develop lettuces resilient to climate change, for example. Produce is unlikely to be available until 2027.

### Headless shark theory

A shark whose head has become the subject of a search involving the broadcaster Dan Snow is a species not previously thought to swim in UK waters. Rob Deaville, manager of strandings for the Zoological Society of London, said he could not rule out that the short-tooth sand tiger shark had travelled to Britain because of a brain infection.

### Killer was homophobic

A loner obsessed with extreme violence has been found guilty of murdering a stranger in a "cruising" hotspot. Erik Feld, 37, hid in Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and battered Ranjith Kankanamalage, 50, with a hammer early on August 16, 2021, the Old Bailey was told. Under cross-examination Feld made a homophobic rant about his victim.

### Olivia mother walks out

The mother of Olivia Pratt-Korbel, nine, walked out of Manchester crown court as the man accused of killing her denied it. Thomas Cashman, 34, was shown CCTV images of the shooting in Dovecot, Liverpool, in August last year, but said he was not the gunman. He denies murder, attempted murder and wounding. The case continues.

# Top Gear in doubt after Flintoff quits over crash




**Alex Farber** Media Correspondent

The future of the BBC's *Top Gear* is in doubt after Andrew "Freddie" Flintoff was injured in a car crash and decided to leave the show.

Insiders confirmed that Flintoff, 45, is quitting as co-presenter after the accident in December, which led to him being flown to hospital.

Flintoff, who joined the programme in 2019 to present alongside Paddy McGuinness and Chris Harris, does not feel that he can continue, having been traumatised by the incident, dealing a blow to one of the BBC's best-known and most valuable programmes.

He and a crew member were driving a three-wheeled open-top Morgan Super 3, which flipped over, causing him serious facial injuries and broken ribs, according to reports.

"Freddie has been seriously emotionally and physically affected by the crash," a source said. "He is a daredevil, that's what he does, and he doesn't feel like he is able to continue to play that role on the show."

The BBC confirmed that it had abandoned filming after an investigation into the crash, which "regrettably injured" Flintoff. It has "sincerely apologised" to the former England cricket captain.



"We will continue to support Freddie with his recovery," a spokesman said. "Under the circumstances, we feel it would be inappropriate to resume making series 34 of *Top Gear* at this time.

"We understand this will be disappointing for fans, but it is the right thing to do and we'll make a judgment about how best to continue later this year. This has also impacted the production team, who we continue to support."

The accident happened in sub-zero temperatures at the Dunsfold Aerodrome in Surrey, the test track where presenters review cars and complete challenges.

After the investigation into the crash, BBC Studios is launching a separate health and safety review of the show before a decision about whether or not it will return this year.

The Times understands that no decision has been made about whether the 34th series of the show will ever be broadcast, although there are hopes that a shortened run can be screened.

If it is scrapped, it will mark the end of a BBC brand that has run for more than two decades following its revival as a weekend entertainment show.

Presenters including Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May helped the show to become one of the BBC's most popular programmes and one of its most valuable.

Produced by BBC Studios, the broadcaster's production arm, it is an international brand and was cited alongside *Doctor Who* as a key element in driving £400 million worth of content sales last year.

It has been sold around the world to more than 200 territories, with local versions produced in China, South Korea, the US, Australia, Russia, Italy and France. In 2021, the 31st series was among the top five most-watched shows on the BBC's channels in the US.

Flintoff was a regular user of social media but has remained silent on Twitter since the accident. The BBC hopes to continue working with him on other programmes such as the cricket show *Field of Dreams*. A spokesman for Flintoff was approached for comment.




**Flintoff was injured after crashing in a three-wheeled Morgan Super 3, left. Filming for Top Gear has been suspended**

## Alexa and doorbell cameras help catch prolific burglar

**Constance Kampfner**

A prolific burglar whose break-in was announced to a family by an Amazon Alexa device has been jailed for three and a half years.

Paul Freeman committed 52 offences over a span of 20 years, including 17 counts of domestic burglary or attempted burglary.

His most recent crime spree began at about midnight on December 30, when he broke into a home in Rochester, Kent. A man watching television with his nine-year-old daughter was alerted to Freeman's presence by the smart speaker, and went into the corridor to see him running away.

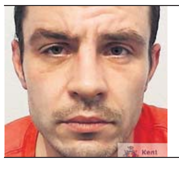
Alexa devices can be programmed to listen automatically for things such as breaking glass and footsteps and will tell users if they suspect an intruder.

Maidstone crown court heard that a Ring doorbell had also captured images of Freeman approaching the property. Nine days later, he was filmed by another Ring doorbell in Gillingham, Kent, stealing a rucksack.

On January 12, he was again captured on doorbell footage in Chatham, Kent, trying the handles to two vehicles and a front door.

After his arrest, Freeman, 39, from Rochester but of no fixed address, admitted two offences of burglary, one of attempted burglary and one of fraud by false representation.

Alex Matthews, prosecuting, told the court that Freeman's latest offences made him "more than a three-striker"

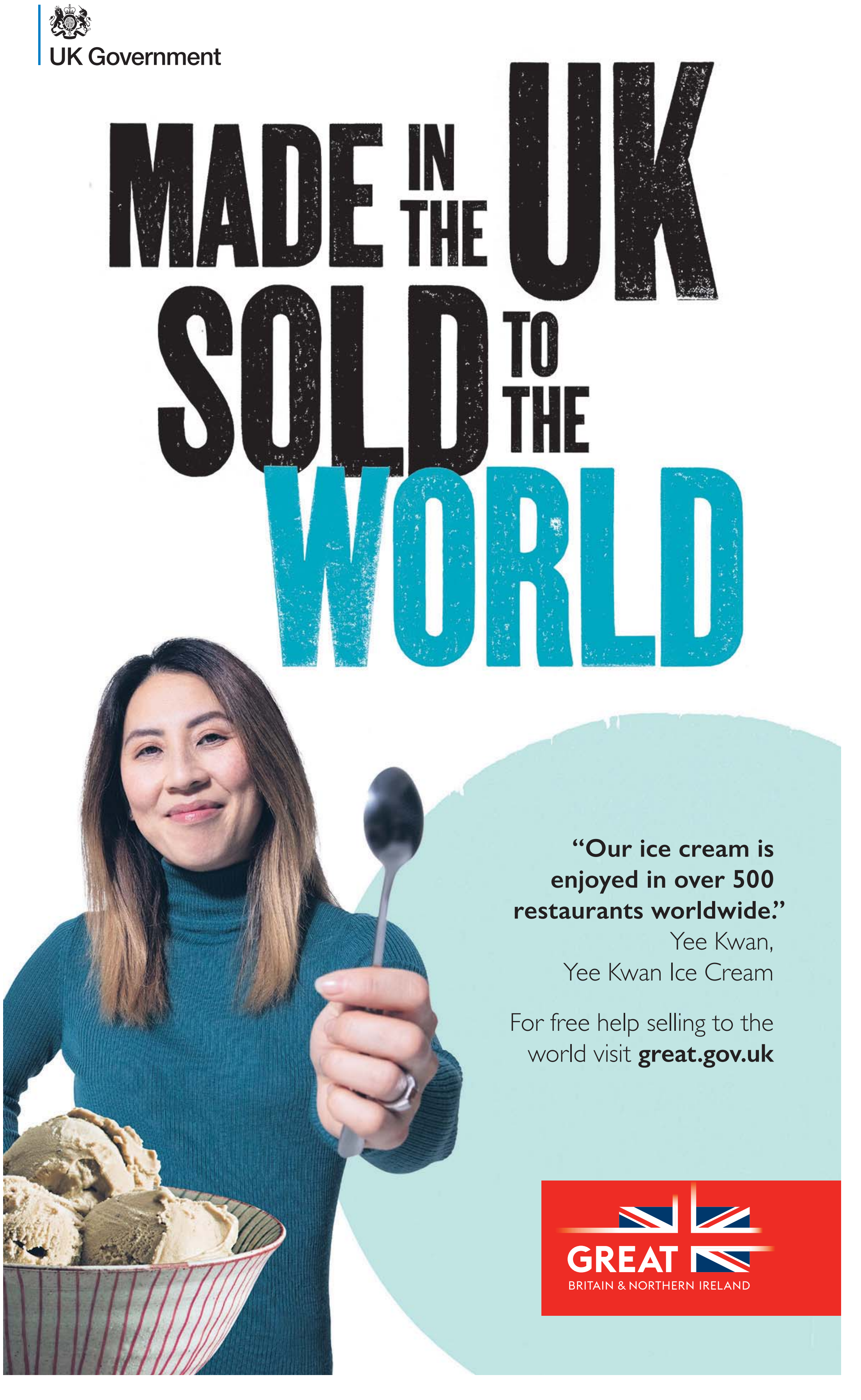


**Paul Freeman was detected by a smart speaker**

— a term used when a minimum jail sentence of three years is required for a third offence of domestic burglary.

Judge Oliver Saxby KC accepted that Freeman's upbringing had a bearing on his offending but said: "You realised what you were doing and you went ahead and did it."

Freeman, a qualified bricklayer and plasterer, was sentenced to three years and six months in prison.



# Johnson on charm offensive to

Steven Swinford Political Editor
Geraldine Scott Political Reporter
Chris Smyth Policy Editor

Boris Johnson will step up campaigning in his constituency as concerns grow that he will face a by-election within months if he is sanctioned over the Downing Street parties scandal.

The Times has been told that Johnson is already planning for the "worst-case scenario", a ten-day suspension from the Commons, which could trigger a by-election in Uxbridge & Ruislip.

Johnson had been more active in the constituency since becoming a backbencher, and is campaigning for a new hospital in Hillingdon and a new police station in Uxbridge.

His campaigning has been focused on local issues and his personal brand, and he does not mention Rishi Sunak as prime minister on his website at all.

Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats are putting the scandal at the heart of their campaigns in Uxbridge. The Labour candidate has promised "honesty and integrity" in politics and the Liberal Democrat has said he was unable to see his father before his death during the pandemic.

An ally of Johnson said that he would "intensify" campaigning in his constituency, "He is planning for the worst case, there's no point in waiting until they've delivered their verdict," they said. "He'll be ready regardless of the outcome."

The privileges committee is due to report back in May, and Johnson will be given two weeks to consider the draft report and the opportunity to respond to criticism.

Johnson has indicated that if he is sanctioned he will not accept the committee's findings.

Jacob Rees-Mogg, a Conservative MP and vocal supporter of Johnson, has said he expects the former prime minister to win if it comes to a by-election. He told Channel 4 News: "I think that if Boris Johnson went to a by-election he would win it comfortably. Because I think he's winning in the court of public opinion, who see this as a kangaroo court."

Sir Charles Walker, a Tory MP on the committee, has accused Johnson's allies of a "concerted" campaign to "delegitimise" the investigation.

Johnson said during his hearing that he "deprecates" the use of the term "kangaroo court" by his allies to describe the privileges committee, but said he would reserve judgment until it reports back.

Although Johnson is bullish about his prospects, many of his allies are already resigned to a by-election. One said: "The people on the committee have made up their minds. They have got it in for him, they don't like him, they fear him.

"They believe Boris fundamentally is a liar. They've prejudged it."

They added that the committee would "string out" its deliberations for as long as possible.

"They have made up their minds but they will take ages," they said. "They will string it out because that's in the Labour party's interests."

Another ally of Johnson said that a recall petition could be a "blessing in disguise", allowing him to move to a safer seat for the next election.

"Privately I don't think any of us expect to win it, but that might offer him a way out," they said.

"I do wonder whether it may turn out to be a blessing in disguise because the Uxbridge question seems hard to answer at the moment. There might just be a way to cling on by one or two thousand votes, but that's hardly the ideal situation to build from."

Johnson had a 7,000-vote lead over the Labour candidate in his constituency at the last election, equivalent to 15 per cent.

However, YouGov polling suggested last year that he could be ousted.

Johnson has been an outspoken critic of Sadiq Khan's expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (Ulez) to cover his patch, a decision he has called "crazy".

Since he was forced out as prime minister, he has noticeably increased the promotion of his constituency visits, with boosterish social media videos and photographs of him meeting businesses, schools, religious leaders and football clubs.

Richard Mills, chairman of the Uxbridge Conservative association, said Johnson held regular constituency surgeries that were "very well attended by residents across the constituency" but that for security reasons they could not always be publicised.

Though Johnson may wish to campaign on local issues, however, the opposition parties will focus on his national record.

Danny Beales, the Labour candidate, has said he will be a "full-time MP". When he was selected in March David Williams, the local Labour Party chairman, noted that he had "never been investigated for breach of the principles relating to public life established by Lord Nolan".

Interrogating Johnson, letters, page 28
Caitlin Moran's Celebrity Watch, Times2

**Analysis**

**Would Britain's government have been able to function in the pandemic without leaving events for No 10 staff? It is perhaps a fitting end to the often farcical parties affair that the political future of Boris Johnson may hinge on the answer (Chris Smyth writes).**

**Faintly absurd though it sounds, the question was thrust front and centre of the privileges committee's deliberation by Johnson's three-and-a-half hour appearance on Wednesday.**

**Johnson's defence boils down to two key planks. The first is to say there is no evidence he knew he was breaking any rules.**

**So Johnson's second argument is that he honestly believed — and still does — that the events he attended complied not only with the law but with guidance. Yet photos of Johnson raising a glass at unsocially distanced gatherings make it harder for him to argue that he followed Covid guidance at all times.**

**Enter the "essential" leaving do. The key clause in the guidance in place for most of the period in question is that when guidelines "cannot be followed in full" then organisations "should consider whether that activity needs to continue". Johnson argues, in effect, that leaving events were needed for No 10 to "continue to operate" as it was "essential to thank staff".**

**It may well be that this persuaded police: who are they, after all, to argue with the PM about what is essential in running the country? But MPs and the public will be harder to convince.**





**High-level talks** Rishi Sunak hosted the 6ft 6in Albanian prime minister Edi Rama,

# Quentin Letts

## Tears sprouted from the SNP's departing cactus

Political Sketch



**As tearjerkers go it fell short of *Love Story* or *Truly, Madly, Deeply* but something remarkable, all the same, happened in the Scottish parliament. Mistress McTermite wept. Nicola Sturgeon had taken her final first minister's questions and followed it with a goodbye statement to MSPs. Towards the end, her voice started wobbling. She pushed her hands against her desk, fiddled with one of her ears and bit on her lip. Then the miraculous happened. Tears! Hanky wallah, emergency burst pipe, booth three.**

**As it happens, colleagues of Sturgeon had indeed come equipped with paper tissues. There's potential here for a TV commercial for kitchen roll: our towels absorb weepy first ministers faster than any other.**

**And what is wrong with a little blubbing? Political leaders have to hide their emotions so much of the time and they work so ceaselessly, with such crazed vehemence, it must be impossible not to start sobbing when the finishing line comes in sight. The format of a goodbye parliamentary statement was a little indulgent, though. For about five minutes she ran though thank-yous. One valedictory sentence actually began with the words "to my special advisers". Big hugs, crumpled chins and off-the-record briefings, everyone. "Thank you for keeping me going," she gasped. "I'm going to miss you."**

**As theatres go, the Holyrood debating chamber is cold. Its pale wood fittings and the modernistic desks deny the place the hot-breathed immediacy of the House of Commons.**

**First minister's questions had seen aggressive but echoey questioning from the leader of the Scots Tories, Douglas Ross, who accused Sturgeon of being a liar. He would never have got away with such things at Westminster. Holyrood's presiding officer, Alison Johnstone, was an ineffectual old goose compared with the Commons speaker, Sir Lindsay Hoyle. Ross, a snub-nosed part-time football referee, took all sorts of liberties with her supposed command of the chamber. Offside, ref. Anas Sarwar, Labour's leader in the parliament, was less spiky than Ross but alleged that Sturgeon had overseen "a culture of cover-up and secrecy". The Lib Dems' leader, Alex Cole-Hamilton, was the most gentlemanly of Sturgeon's opponents. There may be a whiff of the Justin Trudeaus to waistcoat-clad Cole-Hamilton.**

**During all this, Sturgeon gave as good as she got. She cackled at Ross's jibes, jabbed a talon at the air and boomed away in that paint-stripper voice. What a tremendous cactus she has been. The SNP are not short of angry shouters but few of them will be able to match her sustained, polished insistence.**

**Her colleagues went into pantomime displays of shock as she described her opponents' policies. This being Holyrood, members clapped. A woman two down from Sturgeon applauded with extravagant gestures, a seal flapping its flippers. But then came the goodbye statement. It had been "the privilege of my lifetime" to be first minister and she thanked voters for "placing your trust in me". Once or twice the words nearly failed her. This happened when she thanked her deputy, John Swinney, "the best friend I could have wished for". Swinney bowed his head to stop anyone seeing his watering gaze.**

**There was time, too, for one piece of raw gammon when Sturgeon pleaded for less aggressive politics. "Maybe we might enhance our democracy if occasionally we treated each other with kindness." Tell that to the cybernats, Missus.**

**"It is time for Nicola Sturgeon the politician to make a bit of space for Nicola Sturgeon the person," she said with a choke. Maybe Nicola Sturgeon the person will not refer to herself in the third person.**

**A few words of Polonius-style advice to her successor, who will be announced on Monday, were followed by the waterworks. Not everyone in the chamber joined the applause. They were too busy swabbing the decks.**

# head off threat of by-election

HENRY NICHOLLS/REUTERS



a former international basketball player, at Downing Street yesterday. Deal to deport more Albanian criminals, page 14

# Starmer paid a higher rate of tax than Sunak

**Chris Smyth, Matt Dathan**

Sir Keir Starmer has insisted that he is not planning to raise capital gains tax as he revealed that he paid a higher rate of tax on his income than Rishi Sunak.

The Labour leader criticised the Conservatives for taxing "working people" and frontbenchers said it was wrong that the prime minister paid a lower rate than people on average pay.

Tax details released yesterday show Starmer earned £360,000 in the past two years, including capital gains from a house he bought for his sister.

Although the majority of Sunak's income comes from a US-based investment fund, the bulk of Starmer's is his salary as MP and leader of the opposition. He earned £126,154 from this source in 2021-22 along with £453 in book royalties.

Last year Starmer also reported a capital gain of £85,466, which Labour said was the proceeds of the sale of a house he bought for his sister and her children to live in, retaining a share in the ownership.

Starmer's sister, Katherine Swabey, is a care worker in Kent, who he described as "poorly paid" in the Commons in 2021.

The Labour leader paid the 28 per cent capital gains tax rate applied to property, whereas Sunak paid the 20 per cent rate applied to shares on the £3.8 million in capital gains he reported over three years.

Overall Sunak paid an effective tax rate of 22 per cent on his income, whereas Starmer paid 32 per cent last year and 35 per cent the year before.

Sunak has faced criticism for paying the same tax rate as middle earners — and less than those with high-paying jobs — because so much of his income was in the form of capital gains.

Asked three times yesterday if he was considering raising the rate of capital gains tax to the 40 per cent paid by higher earners, Starmer refused to reply. "In relation to tax, obviously we will set out our position as we go into an election. I think others will analyse the prime minister's financial details. They are there for all to see," he said.

However, after confusion over the party's position yesterday, a Labour spokeswoman later insisted: "We have no plans to raise capital gains tax."

Last year's extra income put Starmer in the top 1 per cent of earners — a group Labour has criticised the Tories for benefiting with the pensions tax break in the budget.

Sunak said he had published his return "in the interests of transparency" but said: "The most important thing is what am I doing to help people in this country with the cost of living."

● Cannabis use must not be treated as low-level crime, Starmer has said. In a speech in Stoke-on-Trent, he said it would be targeted by a Labour government. He added: "There's a family in my constituency, every night cannabis smoke creeps in from the street into their children's bedroom. That's not low level — it's ruining their lives. So we won't pull any punches on this."



Keir Starmer bought a house for his sister

# Trans teetering 'will turn off voters'

**Henry Zeffman**
Associate Political Editor
**Matt Dathan**

Sir Keir Starmer is being urged to rule out introducing transgender self-identification amid warnings that he must deal with the issue or face losing the general election on day one.

Party strategists have told the Labour leader that he must make clear that "self-ID is not going to happen".

Starmer appeared to begin shifting Labour's stance yesterday as he said that the rows over Scotland's Gender Recognition Reform Bill showed that the party must reflect public opinion.

One senior Labour source told The Times: "If Keir is still being asked by the time the election campaign begins what a woman is, then he's lost on day one. Scotland is a warning to him. He needs to make his position much clearer. There are ways the gender recognition process can be improved but self-ID is not going to happen under a Labour government."

Starmer has been receiving warnings from advisers since late 2021 that he needs to address the issue, another source claimed. "It goes against his instincts to have a confrontation but too many people don't know where we stand on trans now," they said.

After a speech on crime in Stoke-on-Trent yesterday, Starmer said: "I think if we reflect on what's happened in Scotland, the lesson I take from that is that if you're going to make reforms, you have to carry the public with you. And I think that's a very important message, and I think that's why it's clear that in Scotland there should be a reset of the situation."

The Scottish government passed legislation this year that would have removed the need for a diagnosis of gender dysphoria to be obtained in order to get a gender recognition certificate.

It would also have reduced the minimum age for self-identification from 18 to 16 — something Starmer has previously said he opposes. The bill was blocked by the UK government.

In 2021 Starmer said he wanted to update the UK's gender recognition act "to introduce self-declaration for trans people". The same year he said that the claim that only women had cervixes was "something that shouldn't be said".

In March last year Starmer told The Times that he wanted to reform the gender recognition laws, saying: "The process that people have to go through does need to be looked at. If you talk to anybody who's been through the process there's a real issue about respect and dignity."

A party source said that this remained his position.

Starmer made his comments yesterday after an interview with the Daily Express in which he said that changes to trans laws that "don't carry public confidence are almost certainly not the right changes" and that protecting safe spaces for women was "a very important priority".

He said: "That has to be a very important priority as far as I am concerned and we cannot roll back on that."

**The intellectual void behind Starmer, Sebastian Payne, page 25**

# Labour leader not sorry he fought dealers' deportation

**Matt Dathan**

The Labour leader has refused to apologise for backing a campaign to prevent the deportation of foreign criminals who went on to commit more violent or drug-related crimes.

In 2020, Sir Keir Starmer signed a letter along with other Labour MPs calling for 50 criminals not to be deported to Jamaica. The letter also said that "all [future] charter flights must be suspended" and criminals due for deportation should be given taxpayer-funded mobiles to help with their legal cases.

All but a handful of those due to be on the flight were ultimately allowed to remain in the UK after the campaign by MPs and celebrities helped their case.

An investigation by The Sun yesterday revealed that at least seven of the criminals who were due to be on the flight went on to commit more crimes.

Asked whether he would apologise to those who fell victim to the individuals who were allowed to remain in the UK, Starmer refused and insisted he had a "proud" record of pursuing criminals while he was director of public prosecutions. Answering questions after setting out Labour's crime policies, Starmer said: "I stand proudly by my record. If there's a problem with the criminal justice system then ask yourself: who broke it? If there's a problem with our asylum and deportation system, then ask yourself: who broke it?

"You can't blame the opposition for the government's failures."

Among the people allowed to stay was Ikiva Heaven, a heroin dealer who had already served four years in prison. He was jailed again in May 2021 for dealing cocaine in Hampshire.

Another drug dealer, Barrington Laing, was given a six-month sentence in November, for possessing a knife.

Greg Hands, the Conservative party chairman, said the revelations showed that Labour was "too weak" on crime.

# Parliament joins rush to pull plug on TikTok

**Mark Sellman**
Technology Correspondent

Parliament has banned TikTok from its estate and devices as the app faces increased global scrutiny over links to the Chinese state.

MPs, staff and guests will no longer be able to access the video-sharing platform on parliament's wi-fi and employees cannot use it on their work devices.

The move represents a further tightening of restrictions on the app by officials across the UK. Scotland announced a TikTok ban on government devices yesterday. The bans were prompted by a security review carried out by the National Cyber Security Centre, a division of GCHQ.

Parliamentary TikTokers such as Grant Shapps, the energy secretary, will still be able to post videos using their personal devices via a mobile phone network.

Shapps vowed after the government ban that he "will NOT be leaving TikTok any time soon!" although he said he was taking further "security measures".

The bans were announced as TikTok's chief executive, Shou Zi Chew, faced questions from the US Congress, where representatives are seeking a total ban in the country.

President Biden's administration has called for ByteDance, the company that owns TikTok, to be broken up.

"Let me state this unequivocally: ByteDance is not an agent of China or any other country," Chew said.

Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Republican chairwoman of the House of Representatives energy and commerce committee, told him: "Your platform should be banned. TikTok collects nearly every data point imaginable — from people's location to what they type and copy, who they talk to, to biometric data and more. We do not trust TikTok will ever embrace American values: values for freedom, human rights and innovation."

ByteDance started in China and has a substantial base in Beijing, leading to fears that the app is subject to Beijing's security laws, which can force Chinese companies to hand over data.

TikTok contends it would refuse to hand over data and that ByteDance is not as Chinese as its critics make out. It is incorporated in the Cayman Islands and 60 per cent-owned by global companies.

TikTok is also spending billions of pounds to try and ringfence its data in the US and Europe with third-party oversight.

A report submitted to a select committee of Australia's Senate this week, however, claims that ByteDance has extensive connections to the Chinese state.

Researchers claim to show how the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and state agencies "have extended their ties into ByteDance to the point that the company can no longer be accurately described as a private enterprise".

Brendan Carr, head of the US Federal Communications Commission, described the report as "the most comprehensive exploration yet of the CCP's ties to TikTok. The 113-page doc details the CCP's controls and its surveillance and propaganda aims, which contradict TikTok's public statements".

Carr was appointed by Donald Trump, who sought to ban TikTok when he was president.

In Britain, commissions that run both the House of Commons and the Lords cited security concerns when they decided to impose the ban across the Palace of Westminster in London.

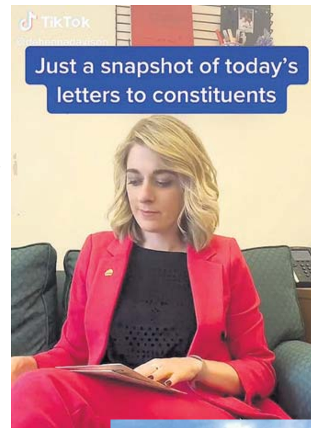
A spokesman for parliament said TikTok "will be blocked from all parliamentary devices and the wider parliamentary network".

TikTok called parliament's move "misguided and based on fundamental misconceptions about our company".

"TikTok is enjoyed by millions of people in the UK, and potentially depriving users from access to and engagement with their representatives is a self-defeating step, especially in our shared fight against misinformation," a spokesman said.

"We are disappointed that, despite our requests, we have not been offered any opportunity to address concerns and only ask to be judged on facts and treated equally to our competitors.

"We have begun implementing a comprehensive plan to further protect our European user data, which includes storing UK user data in our European data centres and tightening data access controls, including third-party independent oversight of our approach."







**Tory TikTokers Dehenna Davison and Grant Shapps cannot use the app on work wi-fi**





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# Twitter will be 'hit where it hurts' if Musk falls short

**Mark Sellman**

The science and technology secretary has warned Elon Musk that Twitter will be "hit where it hurts" if it fails to comply with the Online Safety Bill.

Michelle Donelan, questioned at The Times Tech Summit on whether Twitter would be able to comply with the Online Safety Bill when it becomes law, said: "No matter the leadership or what have you, the ramifications of not complying with the law will still be so stringent and hit them where it hurts."

Research has shown that antisemitism on the network has doubled under Musk's watch.

In the three months before the billionaire bought the social media site, in late October last year, there was a weekly average of 6,204 tweets deemed "plausibly antisemitic", a study found. From the takeover until February 9 the average has been 12,762, an increase of 105 per cent, according to research from King's College, the Institute for Strategic Dialogue and CASM Technology.

Musk has disbanded Twitter's trust and safety council, reinstated banned accounts from the extreme right, and laid off half of the company's staff, including those responsible for removing hate speech.

The Online Safety Bill is now in the Lords and is due to receive royal assent in the summer. Although provisions tackling "legal but harmful" material have been removed out of concerns over free speech, tech companies will have to abide by their rules about removing hate speech.

Companies that do not comply with their duties under the bill may be fined up to 10 per cent of their global turnover. Executives face two-year jail terms if they do not co-operate with the regulator and, under a plan by MPs, also for failing to protect children.

In the King's College antisemitism study, which has not been peer reviewed, more than a million tweets were analysed using algorithms and machine learning to cover 119 words, phrases, slurs and epithets.

Carl Miller, a research fellow at King's who conducted the study, said: "The data is clear: both sharp spikes in antisemitic trolling in the time surrounding Musk's takeover and a sustained increase since."

Danny Stone, chief executive at the Antisemitism Policy Trust, said: "It is appalling, albeit predictable, that Twitter has been going backwards … the online safety bill is in danger of failing to impact any of this hatred. Ministers should ensure user protections are on by default. Otherwise, our safety or vulnerability to harm will remain at the whim of tech giants."

Twitter has taken to sending a poo emoji to journalists, worrying MPs, who raised the issue with Paul Scully, the technology minister, at a select committee meeting this week.




# Shoes off to relish treasure at the heart of coronation

**Charlie Parker**

For more than 150 years kings, queens and cardinals have been among the few people permitted to tread on one of Britain's greatest treasures: a medieval mosaic foretelling the end of the world.

Made with rare marbles, glass and gemstones, the Cosmati Pavement in Westminster Abbey marks the exact spot on which British monarchs have been crowned for centuries.

Days after the coronation of King Charles, the 700-year-old artwork will be opened to the public for the first time — on the condition that they remove their shoes.

The intricate mosaic, at the heart of the Abbey's coronation theatre, is rich in symbolism and is said to depict the universe, with a globe at its centre.

Its allegorical patterns of stone and marble cover an area of 24ft 10in square and were laid in 1268 after they were commissioned by Henry III.

A cryptic brass inscription predicts that the world would end after lasting 19,683 years, with a riddle adding together the life spans of animals including dogs, horses, stags, ravens, eagles and whales, as well as humans.

The geometric floor is considered the best surviving example outside Italy of the rare type of mosaic stonework named Cosmati after the Italian family that perfected the technique.

The pavement has been hidden under a carpet and roped off from the public since the 1870s. It was not until 2010 that it was unveiled after a two-year programme of conservation work.

This meant that the coronations of Elizabeth II in 1953 and her father, George VI, in 1937, took place with the pavement covered by red felt. However, when Charles is crowned it will remain uncovered.

Charles will be crowned sitting in the Coronation Chair, which will rest on a low-stepped dais above the centre circle of the ancient floor in front of the High Altar.

The tour in the days after the ceremony will reveal the Abbey's royal links, tell stories from coronations, visit the chair and explain its history and significance.

Tourists will be kept to groups of ten and asked to walk in socks to protect the pavement in the Sacrarium.

An Abbey spokesman said: "It will be the first time in living memory that the Abbey has invited visitors to walk on the Cosmati pavement where the Coronation Chair will be placed for the crowning of HM the King."

Scott Craddock, head of visitor experience at the Abbey, said: "The Cosmati pavement is unique — it's one of Britain's greatest medieval art treasures — and has been the place of coronations for over 700 years.

"It will be wonderful to see it on display at the next coronation, and wonderful that on this new tour our visitors will be invited to stand on it, and reflect upon such a significant moment in history."

Hours before the tour was announced, two anti-monarchist protesters hopped over the rope that prevents public access and stood on the mosaic.

They placed several upturned gold crowns on the floor and held up a sign saying: "Would you vote for him?" before being asked to leave.

It is understood that no damage was done to the floor.

The guided Crown and Church tours will run from May 15 until July 29. They will cost £15 on top of the usual fee for entry to Westminster Abbey.

JONATHAN BRADY/PA ; RIKKI BLUE VIA REUTERS



**Howard Berry, a marshal at Westminster Abbey, on the medieval Cosmati pavement. Anti-monarchy demonstrators, top left, also stood on it briefly**

# Russia condemns Ukraine focus of William's trip

**Valentine Low**

A top Russian diplomat has used the Prince of Wales's Poland visit to renew Kremlin attacks on Britain for supplying Ukraine with depleted uranium ammunition.

The prince was on a two-day visit to Poland to thank British and Polish troops helping to protect Nato's eastern flank as well as to highlight the plight of Ukrainian refugees.

Maria Zakharova, the spokeswoman of the Russian foreign ministry, cited a news story on The Tatler magazine's website which described him visiting "British and Polish troops involved in the war in Ukraine". Zakharova said that it "dispels all doubts whether Britain and Poland are involved or not".

On Wednesday the prince visited British troops helping to train their Polish counterparts at an air defence base about 50 miles from the border with Ukraine.

Zakharova also raised Russia's concerns about Britain's plans to supply Ukraine with depleted uranium shells for the Challenger 2 tanks. "I wonder if William Charles-ovich has brought depleted uranium ammunition for his troops," she said, using a patronymic for the Prince of Wales by using his father's first name.

Prince William met President Duda — confirmed to be attending the coronation in May — after laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said the prince had wanted to thank the president and Polish people "who have done so much to support the people of Ukraine who've fled here".

Poland has taken in about two million refugees from across the border.

The King revealed yesterday that he was determined to visit Ukraine "before I get too old", in a show of support. He added: "I would like the chance to see Ukraine again."



**The prince with Ukrainian refugees settled in Poland**

# Protesters may target King's feast

**Adam Sage** Paris

More than 1,000 police officers will be deployed at the Palace of Versailles to protect the King during a state banquet that could be targeted by protesters, according to the French media.

President Macron's staff are said to have begun a last-minute review of security arrangements for the banquet on Monday evening.

Eight hundred riot police will be on duty in Versailles, Le Figaro newspaper said, along with 350 other officers on foot, horseback and motorcycles. Members of the elite police Research Assistance Intervention Dissuasion (Raid) unit will also be on hand. Police marksmen will be deployed along with drones capable of shooting down other unauthorised drones.

The daily newspaper said the King and Queen will be protected by their own bodyguards but also by the elite French police Protection Service.

French officials are said to have bolstered security amid concern over a potential terrorism threat and warnings by trade unions that the King's visit could become embroiled in street protests.

BFM, the rolling news channel, said concern was so acute that the banquet could be moved to the less symbolic setting of the Elysée Palace in central Paris. Much of the country is in uproar over Macron's plan to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64.

The reception for the King and Queen in the Palace of Versailles has been denounced by activists as an insult to striking workers.

**A million on the streets, page 30**

# Royal family's approval at a 12-month low

**Shayma Bakht**

The popularity of the royal family has fallen to its lowest level in 12 months.

Public support rose after the Queen's death last year, but according to an Ipsos poll public support for the family is now 46 per cent, down from 54 per cent in September.

After the publication of *Spare*, the Duke of Sussex's autobiography, public sympathy for all leading members of the royal family declined.

About 22 per cent of respondents said they felt unfavourably towards all the main members of the family immediately after its release. The latest poll shows public opinion has not recovered, as 26 per cent said they felt unfavourably towards the family.

Sixty-three per cent of adults said Prince William would do a good job as king, down from 74 per cent in December. This is the lowest figure in the past ten months of polling.

Prince Harry is the third least popular member of the family after his wife, Meghan, and the Duke of York.

Overall, support for the institution was stronger than criticism: 38 per cent said it would be worse for Britain if the monarchy were abolished, whereas 24 per cent said it would benefit the country. As the nation prepares to celebrate the King's coronation in May, more than 50 per cent said they thought he would do a good job as King, compared with 14 per cent who thought that he would do a bad job.

News

KEVIN SAWFORD/COVER IMAGES



**Early riser** A hedgehog explores the violets in a Suffolk garden. The mammal often emerges from hibernation in March

# UK 'less prepared for a pandemic than before Covid'

**Tom Whipple** Science Editor

Britain is less prepared for a pandemic now than it was three years ago because a key vaccine manufacturing plant has been sold, scientists have warned.

Professor Adrian Hill, director of the Jenner Institute, which was responsible for the Oxford coronavirus vaccine, said the recent loss of the Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre (VMIC) in Oxfordshire, which was created to respond to outbreaks, showed the UK was going backwards.

"It's less that we haven't learnt the lessons — we're aware of the lessons," he said. "We just haven't taken the action that's required from those lessons. And we're looking at our toes again rather than doing something about it."

The £200 million taxpayer-funded facility was set up as a not-for-profit company, partly in response to the 2014 ebola outbreak. It was intended to help vaccines from a diverse set of technologies into manufacturing, and quickly increase production during pandemics.

When the coronavirus struck, the facility was repurposed with a view to mass manufacture, but now that production is being done by industry it has been sold to Catalent, a US company, meaning that the UK is once again without a flexible manufacturing facility that can respond to outbreaks.

A government spokesman said: "VMIC has always been a private company and the government had no role in the sale of its manufacturing centre. Catalent is a highly regarded global company and its expansion in the UK will further strengthen our biotherapeutics industry."

Hill said: "The man in the street thinks the UK is really good at this, thanks to all the publicity about what we did during the pandemic, and probably feels we're in a relatively good place. Well, we're actually in a worse place than we were three years ago."

Professor Robin Shattock, from Imperial College London, a former chairman of VMIC's board of directors, said he thought the decision to sell had been made on cost grounds. "They were worried they'd built this big white elephant, and they'd be on the hook for the next umpteen years with it ticking over," he said. "It probably would have cost £5 million a year — pretty small in defence terms, if you think of it as defence against infectious diseases rather than military defence. But I think that ship has sailed."

The government recently announced a ten-year partnership with Moderna, the mRNA vaccines manufacturer. However, Professor Sandy Douglas, from the Jenner Institute, said that in the early stages of an outbreak, when it is not clear whether it will spread, it is not enough to rely on pharmaceutical companies.

A system would be needed that took action when "there's a 10 per cent chance it's going to be a problem for the UK, rather than waiting until it's a 99 per cent chance", he said.

Douglas also suggested that to combat unknown future threats the UK needed to rely on more than mRNA. "In 2020 everyone was saying never again," he said. "But entirely predictably, we're back in the position where a pandemic is something which is probably not going to happen in this parliament and so it's off the priority list."

Kate Bingham, former head of the Vaccines Task Force, said: "The sale of VMIC was a definite loss. The chancellor said that the UK life sciences sector could shape and define this century. To do this, we need to reinstate our commitment to working with innovators to scale-up and test new vaccines and biotherapeutics, which needs leadership and funds."

# Gene therapy to thwart fatal condition in children

**Kat Lay** Health Editor

The NHS is set to offer a life-changing gene therapy to children with a rare disorder that usually means they die before their tenth birthday.

Children with a severe form of a condition called AADC deficiency can be treated with eladocagene exuparvovec after a decision by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Nice).

Given as a single dose, infused directly into the brain, the drug, made by a US company, PTC Therapeutics, is designed to correct the underlying genetic fault that means sufferers do not have enough aromatic L-amino acid decarboxylase (AADC).

There are about ten children with the condition in the UK, of whom a small number are likely to be eligible for the treatment, Nice said.

The deficiency leads to severe symptoms affecting the nervous, gastrointestinal and endocrine systems. Young children may struggle to develop head control, or begin sitting and walking.

Eighty per cent of sufferers have a severe form of the condition leaving them fully dependent on carers. A Nice spokesman said: "Because of the rarity of AADC deficiency, there is little evidence about how long people live with it. But clinical opinion suggests that most people die before they reach their tenth birthday, usually because of cardiac events, multiple organ failure, pneumonia or asphyxia."

Helen Knight, director of medicines evaluation at Nice, said that clinical trials "showed the potential for substantial benefits that were sometimes clearly life-changing". She added: "Today's decision comes after a confidential commercial deal between NHS England and the company. This recognises the uncertainty in the evidence of eladocagene exuparvovec's long-term effectiveness and has enabled the committee to recommend it as good value for the NHS and taxpayers."

John Stewart, NHS England's national director for specialised commissioning and interim commercial medicines director, said: "The NHS is continually adopting cutting-edge treatments that push the boundaries of medical science … this latest gene therapy demonstrates this once again, providing a first treatment option for children with an incredibly rare condition."




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# Vorderman criticises 'lying' minister for committee no-show

Oliver Wright Policy Editor

The television presenter Carol Vorderman has launched an attack on the women's health minister, accusing her of lying.

Vorderman claimed that Maria Caulfield had failed to turn up for a hearing of the women and equalities committee and had made misleading claims about her failure to attend.

In turn, Caulfield accused Vorderman of treating her like a "punch bag", saying she did not have to tolerate her behaviour. She was backed by Penny Mordaunt, the leader of the Commons, who described Vorderman's comments as a "confected and false campaign against a very decent and hard-working minister".

The row started after Caulfield told the women and equalities committee that she would be unable to attend a scheduled hearing to discuss help for women in work who were suffering from side-effects from the menopause.

She said that she had offered alternative dates when she could appear before the committee. But Vorderman, who did attend as patron of the campaign group Menopause Mandate, told the committee that Caulfield couldn't be "bothered to turn up".

She later claimed on Twitter that she had seen the minister in the Commons an hour before the hearing.

"The lying minister who couldn't be bothered to turn up was having a cup of tea in the canteen an hour beforehand. We saw her," she wrote. "That's not much of an example is it?" she said.

But in an exchange with Vorderman, Caulfield categorically denied her claims and said she was being unfairly attacked. "I am not a punch bag and if you post misleading information about me you will be blocked," she wrote.

"Either you want a meaningful discussion on Twitter or you just want to abuse me. You can't do both and I don't have to tolerate the latter. I couldn't attend yesterday as I was seeing women campaigners against painful hysteroscopy which had been in the diary for months. I have given alternative dates to the committee and they are the facts."

During her evidence session, Vorderman, also criticised Kemi Badenoch, the women and equalities minister, who claimed that the Labour MP Carolyn Harris was "speaking from a left-wing perspective" when she called for a pilot on menopause leave.



Carol Vorderman attacked ministers

Vorderman said Badenoch had been "insulting" during a discussion about whether the menopause should be a protected characteristic, in which the minister compared the request to others made by carers, single people or those with ginger hair or who were short. "This was like going back 100 years to when women just had the vote," Vorderman said.

# Politician and wife guilty over plot to harvest kidney for their daughter

David Brown

A wealthy Nigerian politician, his wife and a doctor were convicted yesterday of organ harvesting after an impoverished donor was trafficked to the UK so his kidney could be taken.

Ike Ekweremadu, 60, a former deputy president of Nigeria's senate, plotted to arrange a transplant for his daughter at a London hospital.

The case is the first prosecution for commercial organ donation under the Modern Slavery Act. It is illegal to offer to pay or offer any other reward to a donor.

International investigators believe hundreds of impoverished Africans are trafficked abroad to have their organs harvested for transplant operations for wealthy patients.

The intended donor told the Old Bailey he was unaware he was expected to sacrifice his kidney until he arrived at the Royal Free Hospital in Camden, north London. The 21-year-old market trader, who grew up in a remote village in Nigeria, believed he was being taken to the UK to work.

His organ was intended for Sonia Ekweremadu, 25, who was studying for a master's degree at Newcastle University when she suffered kidney failure in 2020.

Her father, one of Nigeria's most powerful politicians, was representing his country at the Cop26 climate change conference in Glasgow while medical tests were being organised to identify suitable donors. He was appointed a visiting professor of corporate and international linkages at the University of Lincoln a month before his arrest in June last year.

His wife, Beatrice Nwanneka, 56, a senior official in Nigeria's auditor-general's department, was also convicted of being part of the conspiracy to pay the donor, who cannot be identified.

Sonia was introduced to her donor during a "familiarisation" lunch, where they had a photograph taken together at a south London restaurant the day before his first meeting with a doctor at the Royal Free Hospital in February last year.

The family claimed they were unaware there was a deal to pay the donor as little as £2,400 for his kidney and believed that he was acting altruistically.



Ike Ekweremadu, Beatrice Nwanneka, right, and their daughter, Sonia. The couple and Dr Obinna Obeta, below, were the first convicted under the Modern Slavery Act



They were advised by Obinna Obeta, 51, a doctor who moved to London to have his own kidney transplant surgery at the Royal Free.

The donor escaped from Obeta's home in Southwark, south London, and later walked into a police station in Staines, Surrey. Obeta was also found guilty.

Obeta's kidney was from a friend of Sonia Ekweremadu's intended donor. Obeta and Sonia Ekweremadu falsely claimed their donors were their cousins.

The intended recipient, who was found not guilty, is still waiting for a kidney transplant after a doctor at the Royal Free said her connection with the donor was "far too tenuous to be a truly altruistic act".

Hugh Davies KC, for the prosecution, said Ike Ekweremadu, who was a senator from 2003 until last month's election, felt he owed the donor nothing as he was prepared to pay £6,500 for his kidney and get him illegal work in the UK. "From beginning to end it demonstrates all he was to you was a body part for sale," Davies said. The politician replied: "Never. It was a big scam."

An NHS consultant who helped to arrange the planned transplant and a hospital secretary who acted as an interpreter for the intended donor remain under investigation.

The operations were arranged by Chris Agbo, 50, who runs the Cambridge-based Vintage Health Group, which organises treatment for foreign patients at private British hospitals. He is also an NHS consultant nephrologist based at the Hinchingbrooke Hospital in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

Agbo charged £10,000 to arrange kidney transplant operations in the UK, the court was told. He lives with his family in a £1 million, six-bedroom home in Fen Drayton, Cambridgeshire.

Evelyn Agbasonu, a medical secretary at the Royal Free Hospital's private clinic who acted as an Igbo language translator, is also being investigated. She was allegedly paid £1,500 to manipulate answers from Ekweremadu's donor during an interview with a doctor.

Although there is no suggestion of wrongdoing by doctors at the Royal Free, the case will reignite concerns about transplant operations for foreign patients. In 2009 foreign patients were banned from having transplants using organs donated after death when it emerged that over two years the livers of 50 British NHS patients had been transplanted into foreign private patients. The bulk of the operations took place at the Royal Free and King's College Hospital in London.

The Royal Free performed 25 kidney transplants from living donors in the 12 months to April last year. The Home Office does not publish details of the number of visas issued to foreigners visiting the UK to donate organs for transplant.

Sonia Ekweremadu and her three siblings were all educated at private boarding schools in the UK. The family has a home in Willesden, northwest London. The family is also alleged by anti-corruption investigators in Nigeria to have a £1.3 million apartment in Marylebone, central London, more than 20 properties in Nigeria, three in the United States and nine in Dubai.

Joanne Jakymec, the chief crown prosecutor, said the defendants "showed utter disregard for the victim's welfare".

A Royal Free Hospital spokeswoman said: "National guidance for the clinical assessment of living donor transplantation, which applies to both our NHS and private patients, was followed in this case and a decision taken not to go ahead with the procedure."

The Ekweremadus hugged in the dock before the politician, his wife and Obeta were sent to prison to await sentencing on May 5.

ELLIOTT FRANKS



Dancing on ice Creature, set in an abandoned Arctic research station, opened last night at Sadler's Wells, in central London

# A million sex offence victims in one year

James Beal Social Affairs Editor

More than a million adults in Britain were victims of sexual offences in a year, and numbers have risen significantly over the past decade.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) Crime Survey estimated that 2.3 per cent of people aged over 16 — including 798,000 women and 275,000 men — had been victims of an actual or attempted sexual assault in the year ending March 2022.

A record 193,566 sexual offences were recorded by police last year, up by 30,322, or 31 per cent, compared with the year ending March 2020. It was up by 45,731 from 2021, when the pandemic had brought numbers down.

The combined figures showed that there had been a "significant increase" in sex offending since 2014, the ONS said. Helen Ross, from the ONS centre for crime and justice, said: "This could be driven, in part, by an increased number of victims willing to report both recent and historical incidents."

Approximately 16.6 per cent of adults said they had experienced sexual assault since the age of 16. The survey found that 7.9 million people had experienced sexual assault since turning 16, and 1.9 million had been raped.

# Inspections will not pause after tragedy, insists Ofsted head

Emma Yeomans

The death of a head teacher was a "tragedy" but stopping school inspections would not be in children's best interests, the head of Ofsted has said.

Amanda Spielman, the chief inspector, acknowledged that the debate about reforming inspections to remove grades was "a legitimate one", but insisted they aimed to raise standards and should continue.

Three unions representing teachers and head teachers urged Ofsted to pause inspections this week. Teachers gathered outside the watchdog's headquarters to hold a vigil for Ruth Perry, 53, who was head teacher at Caversham primary school in Reading.

She killed herself in January while waiting for an Ofsted report that downgraded her school to the lowest possible rating, her family said.

Spielman said she was "deeply sorry" for the loss suffered by Perry's family, friends and community but defended inspections because of the checks they provide on teaching, behaviour and pupil care.

She said: "The sad news about Ruth has led to an understandable outpouring of grief and anger from many people in education. There have been suggestions about refusing to cooperate with inspections, and union calls to halt them entirely.

"Our aim is to raise standards so that all children get a great education. It is an aim we share with every teacher in every school."

Unions representing school leaders said Ofsted's response did not go far enough. Paul Whiteman, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "School leaders want to see tangible actions being taken to reduce the intolerable pressure that the current inspection regime places on everyone in schools, and they want to see those actions now."

The Association of School and College Leaders said the union had asked Ofsted to pause inspections and described it as "a very moderate request".

In a letter to Ofsted on Wednesday, school and college leaders across Reading said they wanted the "terrible tragedy to mark a turning point" in the way school inspections were carried out.

Schools have been removing logos and references to Ofsted ratings from their websites as a mark of solidarity with Perry. Heads said they planned to stage peaceful protests — including wearing black clothing and armbands and displaying photographs of Perry — when inspections take place.

Ofsted inspections, letters, page 28

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# Rocket man feeling the love as farewell tour sets off again

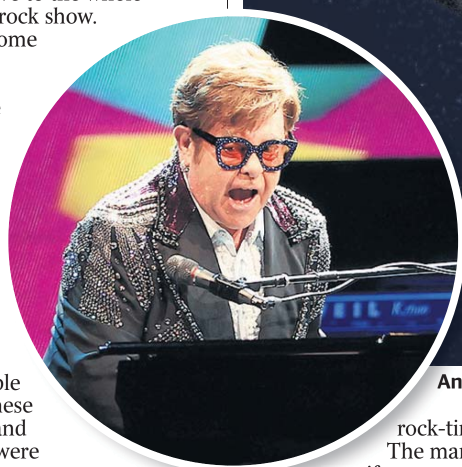
**Pop** Will Hodgkinson

**Elton John**
M&S Bank Arena, Liverpool
★★★★★

PETER BYRNE/PA



An Elton John masterclass had the crowd singing along to hits such as Goodbye Yellow Brick Road



Back in 2018 Elton John announced he was heading off on the appropriately named Farewell Yellow Brick Road tour. This was it, the final curtain, the last time he hit the road, ever. . . Five years later here we were at the opening UK night of his 300-date global trot, with the most flamboyant of all the baby boomer rock stars proving that more than the glasses, the wigs and the diva outbursts, it is the songs for which he will be remembered.

Sitting side of stage at the piano, within a design that fitted the rest of the band into a cut-out section below a screen, John, 75, began with the single chord piano stabs to *Bennie and the Jets*, jumping up from his stool when excitement got the better of him.

And for all his over-the-top tendencies the staging was pretty artistic: Martin Parr's photographs of everyday British grot as a backing for *I Guess That's Why They Call It the Blues*; (fake) footage of Marilyn Monroe for *Candle In The Wind*; a fantastic *Tiny Dancer* complete with verité scenes of LA life. There was a sense of narrative to the whole thing, rare in a rock show.

There were some obscurities — a melodramatic rocker from the early Seventies called *Have Mercy on the Criminal* inspired a mass of light-up novelty Elton John glasses to head to the bar — but in the main it was remarkable how many of these songs by John and Bernie Taupin were instantly familiar.

An extended *Rocket Man*, complete with a cosmic solo from the guitarist Davey Johnstone, was a highlight, and it helped that the band were so good. John's frenetic long-term percussionist Ray Cooper really outdid himself during the southern rock-tinged *Levon*.

The man of the hour was, if not exactly restrained, then at least dignified, greeting the crowd every now and then but for the most part remaining behind the piano.

His voice was still strong and expressive, if not as pure as it once was; his piano playing off the scale. And it was emotional when his life played out on screen for *Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me*.

A backing track-led rendition of the 2021 hit *Cold Heart*, with its co-star Dua Lipa on screen but not in person, was a step into cheesy karaoke territory too far, but otherwise, with mass singalongs of *Your Song* and *Goodbye Yellow Brick Road* completing a two and a half hour set, this farewell concert was a delight.

"It made me feel so good," John told the Liverpool audience, of the reception they gave him. Let's hope this tour continues to be a very long goodbye.

*M&S Bank Arena, Liverpool, tonight; Resorts World Arena, Birmingham, Sunday; then touring*

# Ski crash with Paltrow changed my father for ever, says daughter

**Will Pavia** New York

The daughter of a man aged 76 who says he was knocked down on a ski slope by Gwyneth Paltrow wept giving evidence yesterday as she described how the accident transformed her jovial and outgoing father into an angry and "befuddled" man who grieved the loss of his old life.

Terry Sanderson was "a goer", "fun-loving" and "very gregarious" before he collided with Paltrow at the Deer Valley Resort in 2016, Polly Sanderson-Grasham told a court in Park City, Utah.

Sanderson is suing Paltrow for $300,000 claiming that she "slammed" into him from the rear as he made his way down a nursery slope, knocking him unconscious and leaving him with four broken ribs and lingering brain injuries. Paltrow has countersued for one dollar, arguing that it was actually Sanderson who skied into her. Sanderson-Grasham, 49, said her father, a former optometrist, had been enjoying his retirement, volunteering with a clean-up crew at the Sundance festival so that he could attend concerts, and with a charity. He was a "cheerleader" for his granddaughters, "really quick with a joke and a smile and just real positive", she said. He loved the outdoors and skiing.

In February 2016, she learnt that he had been in an accident. "He had broken some ribs, that was painful," she said. "I think the words were that he 'got his bell rung'."

Asked if she had been told at the time "that Gwyneth Paltrow was involved", Sanderson-Grasham said that came later. She lives in Idaho, about 12 hours' drive away, and the first time she saw her father after the accident was in May 2016 when he came to attend her daughter's graduation, she said.

"I felt like: 'wow'," she said. "There was a time when he was sitting in a chair, by my window … I almost expected drool to be coming out of his mouth." He would become fixated "on really small things" and "I think he gets frustrated and angry", she said. "I understand there is a lot of grief and loss for the way his life functioned before." She had also seen him become lost near his home.

Earlier, the jury heard from Alina Fong, a neurophysiologist who treated Sanderson a year and a half after the collision. "This completely changed his life," she said. She said he showed no evidence of malingering, or wallowing in his symptoms. "None whatsoever," she told Sanderson's lawyer, Lawrence Buhler.

Steve Owens, Paltrow's lawyer, questioned Sanderson-Grasham about an email sent to her by her father after the collision, with the subject line: "I'm famous … At what cost?"

"It matches his personality a little bit, making light of a serious situation," Sanderson-Grasham said. "It hurt him that somebody would just not care," she said, adding that her father wanted an apology. Owens noted Sanderson did not mention any injuries in the email.

Paltrow's lawyers have argued that Sanderson was suffering health problems before the collision.

Fong said this did not mean he did not suffer from lingering injuries after the accident. "He had these prior issues which makes him more fragile and significantly more at risk of these issues," she said. The trial continues.



Gwyneth Paltrow arriving at court in Utah yesterday

# Chris Martin born to run on Boss's one-meal diet

**Matilda Davies**

Chris Martin, the lead singer of Coldplay, has cut his food intake down to one meal a day after becoming envious of Bruce Springsteen's physique.

Martin, 46, said he started skipping dinner after noticing that Springsteen, 73, was "more in shape" than him during a lunch in Philadelphia last year.

During the meal Springsteen's wife, Patti Scialfa, revealed that her husband ate only one meal a day. Martin was later asked by Conan O'Brien, an American television presenter who has a comedy podcast, to reveal the best advice he had been given by another musician.

"I stop eating at four, and I learnt that from having lunch with Bruce Springsteen," Martin, 46, said.

He added: "I was lucky enough to go over there for lunch the day after we played Philadelphia last year. I was on a really strict diet anyway, and I was like, 'Bruce looks even more in shape than me', and Patti said he's only eating one meal a day. So I was like, 'Well, there we go. That's my next challenge'."

The comment prompted controversy online, with one Twitter user calling his dietary habits "unhealthy and unsustainable". Several fans drew comparison with his ex-wife Gwyneth Paltrow's comments on the *Art of Being Well* podcast this week. The actress told its host, Dr Will Cole, that she was following the paleo diet, which avoids processed food. She fasts until noon, eats either soup or bone broth for lunch, then exercises for an hour.

One Twitter user said: "This makes me sad for his children with Gwyneth Paltrow. Neither of their parents seem to have the healthiest relationship with food." The actress responded to criticism over her comments on Instagram, saying she did "eat full meals".

Paltrow, the founder of the wellness brand Goop, married Martin in 2003. They announced their separation in 2014 after having two children.

# Ofcom warns BBC over TV and radio cuts

**Alex Farber** Media Correspondent

Ofcom's broadcasting head has criticised the BBC for a lack of transparency over planned changes to its local radio services and television news channels.

Setting out the BBC's operating licence, Kevin Bakhurst said he was concerned about the confusion that had resulted from its decisions to share programming between its local radio network, and to replace BBC News UK and World News with a single channel.

"We've been particularly disappointed by the BBC's lack of detail and clarity about the changes," he said. "The absence of important information has resulted in a lot of uncertainty for audiences who are not clear about what the changes will mean in practice for the services they use. Our strict new reporting rules will ensure the BBC is held to a higher level of public accountability, requiring it to clearly explain its plans before going ahead, as well as evaluating whether they work."

Coverage of the budget was disrupted on March 15 when BBC staff went on strike for 24 hours over the decision to share radio programming between regions after 2pm on weekdays and at weekends. Another walkout is planned for the day of the King's coronation.

The shift to a single TV news channel, aimed at both domestic and international audiences, has also been criticised. The Scottish government is among those to have objected.

A BBC spokesman said it welcomed changes "which reflect the need for the BBC's regulation to evolve for the digital age". They added: "We are committed to transparency and will set out how we plan to deliver for audiences … in our upcoming annual plan."

News

# Lawyers won't work for fossil fuel firms

**Jonathan Ames** Legal Editor

Activist lawyers have vowed not to represent fossil fuel companies or prosecute climate change protesters in a move that has provoked a row with the legal profession's leadership.

More than 120 prominent barristers, solicitors and legal academics are planning to publish a "declaration of conscience" next week, in which they say that they will not act for international energy companies and promise not to accept instructions from the Crown Prosecution Service to prosecute members of campaign groups such as Extinction Rebellion, Insulate Britain and Just Stop Oil.

The declaration has been organised by the environmental group Plan B, which is headed by the now disbarred barrister, Tim Crosland.

Crosland, who in 2021 was found to have been in contempt of the Supreme Court after he breached its embargo on a ruling on the Heathrow runway extension, has said that the barristers who have signed the declaration face the prospect of disciplinary action for breach of professional regulations.

The former barrister was himself disbarred over the contempt case. He said that some of the barristers who had signed the declaration had reported themselves to the Bar Standards Board, the profession's regulator.

In a statement, Plan B said that it was understood "to be the first time in legal history that barristers have engaged in a mass, collective act of civil disobedience".

However, the group's leadership has acknowledged that the majority of the lawyers signing the list were unlikely to be instructed by multinational corporations or by the Crown Prosecution Service as their views were already well known.

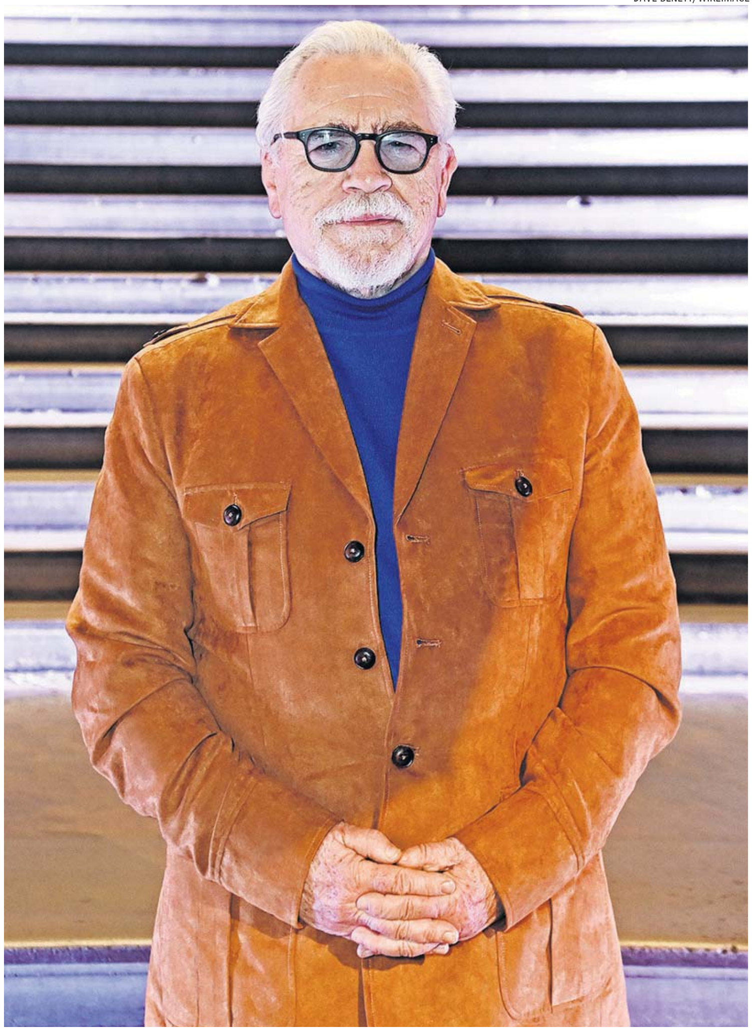
One of the signatories, Michael Mansfield KC, who represented those wrongly convicted of the Guildford Four and Birmingham Six bombings, said: "I live on planet earth but I do not own it. I see myself as a custodian whose good fortune and responsibility is to represent its interests and those of fellow guardians; not those who seek to exploit its resources for profit or oppress the voice of the protectors."

The group's action has put the lawyers at odds with several senior barristers, including the chairman of the Bar Council.

On Wednesday, Nick Vineall KC said that such activism was a "distinct threat" to the perception of the independence of the Bar.

Robert Buckland KC, a former Conservative justice secretary, agreed with Vineall, telling the Daily Mail: "The importance of that independence is not about one's individual views but the interests of justice, and I do think that's a very odd approach to take, frankly, and not really consistent with the role of a lawyer."

DAVE BENETT/WIREIMAGE



**End of the line** Brian Cox, who plays Logan Roy in HBO's Succession, at the British Museum yesterday for the premiere of the dark satire's fourth and final series

# PM strikes prisoner deal with Albania

**Matt Dathan** Home Affairs Editor

All Albanian criminals in the UK who are eligible for deportation could be returned to their home country under a new agreement struck last night.

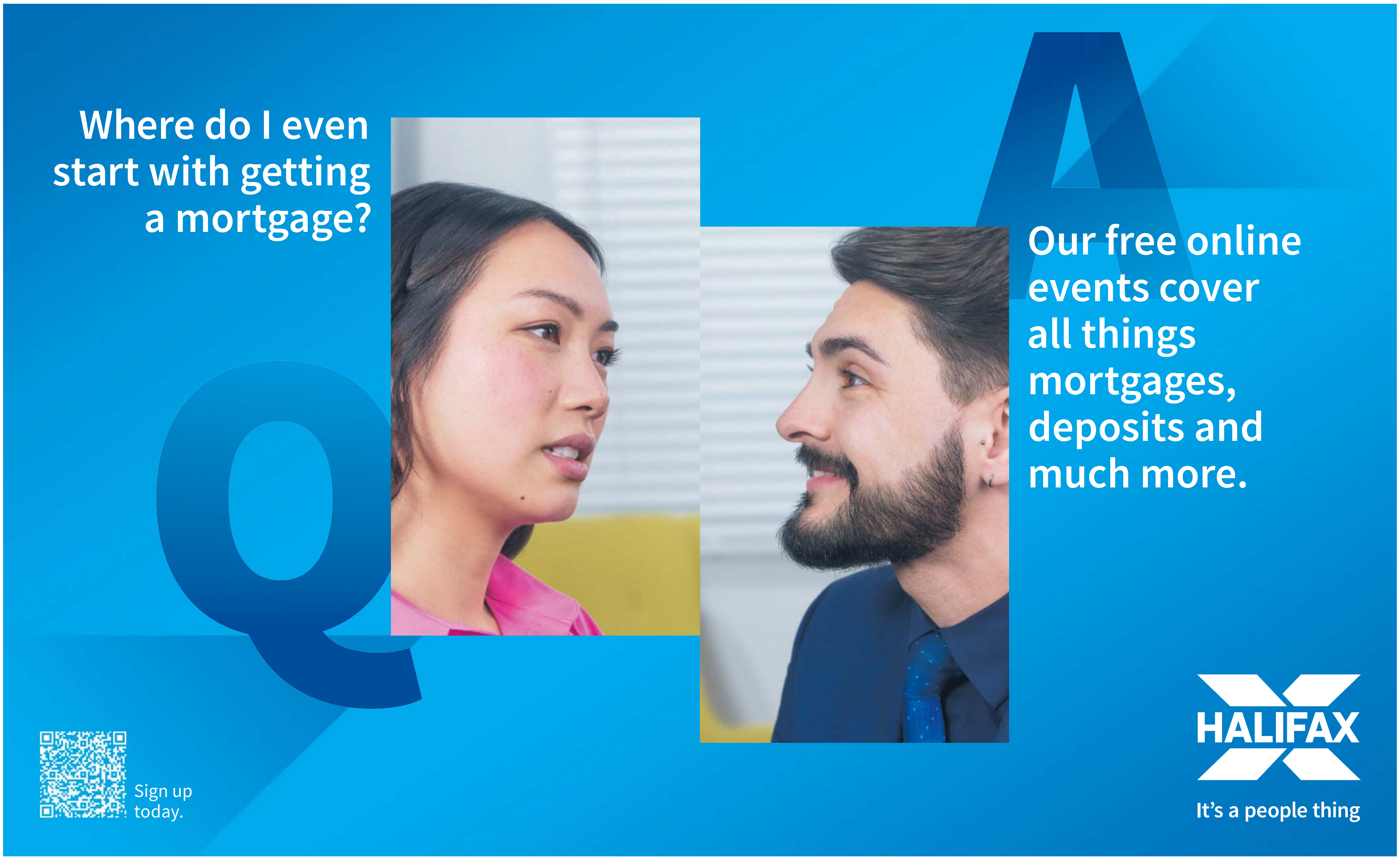
Downing Street announced that a joint task force would assess Albania's prison capacity by the end of next month with the aim of removing all those who qualified.

At the end of last year, there were 1,336 Albanians in prisons in England and Wales and they made up the largest nationality of the 9,000 foreign inmates in British jails. Only those who have been sentenced to at least 12 months will be eligible for deportation. Albanians are ten times more likely to end up in jail than the average person in the UK.

The deal was struck between Rishi Sunak and Edi Rama, the Albanian prime minister, who visited Downing Street yesterday. Since December 800 Albanians have been removed.

Rama said he wanted Albanians in the UK to feel "safe" after earlier criticising British ministers' "very disgraceful" comments about migrants from his country. However, he said he was "very satisfied" with Sunak and added they had "set up the path towards stapling together" relations.

Rama met Sunak to boost co-operation on efforts to stop Albanian migrants from entering the UK illegally.


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# Mother's fury after 'rangers' detain boy, 15

Seren Hughes

A former No 10 adviser has called for a review into the use of street rangers after her son was allegedly "slam-dunked" to the ground and handcuffed.

Kirsty Buchanan shared a video of her 15-year-old son being restrained by two civilian security staff employed by the Chichester Business Improvement District (BID) at a Superdrug store in Chichester, West Sussex.

One can be seen kneeling across the boy's legs while the other puts plastic handcuffs on him.

Buchanan claims that her son was followed by the rangers into the shop. After he joked about being followed, they "threw him on to the ground, sat on top of him", she told Times Radio.

She claimed the pair were "aggressive" and that her son retaliated after he was pushed. She said: "When he got to the shampoo counter he was joking around about being followed by these two guys whereupon they snapped, grabbed his arm, threw him on to the ground, sat on top of him.

"They got plastic handcuffs, handcuffed him and yanked his arms up behind his back. A friend came to his aid and was also subsequently arrested for assault which was committed . . . to try to get these two men off my child."

Speaking to The Mirror, Buchanan added: "He was slam-dunked to the floor and they sat on top of him as you see in the video and they put plastic handcuffs on him, the police then arrived and arrested my son."

A Superdrug spokesman said female staff were assaulted during the incident, but Buchanan claimed this happened after her son had been detained.

Sussex police said a 15-year-old boy from Worthing was arrested on suspicion of assault after he was detained by privately employed civilian security staff. A 16-year-old boy from Chichester was also detained and arrested on suspicion of assault, possession of cannabis, and using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour to cause harassment, alarm or distress.

Both have been released on bail pending further inquiries.

Buchanan questioned the use of private security guards in towns as well as the police handling of the incident. "There needs to be a thorough review of the use of these security guards on our streets because they are on our streets and are completely unregulated. What is the training procedure? What is their remit," she said,

Chichester BID's security services are provided by Blayde Security, which is listed as an approved contractor by the private security industry regulator, the Security Industry Authority.

A spokesman for Chichester BID said it was taking the incident "very seriously" and was co-operating with police. The organisation is independent from local authorities and funded by local, business-rate payers to "invest in local improvements".

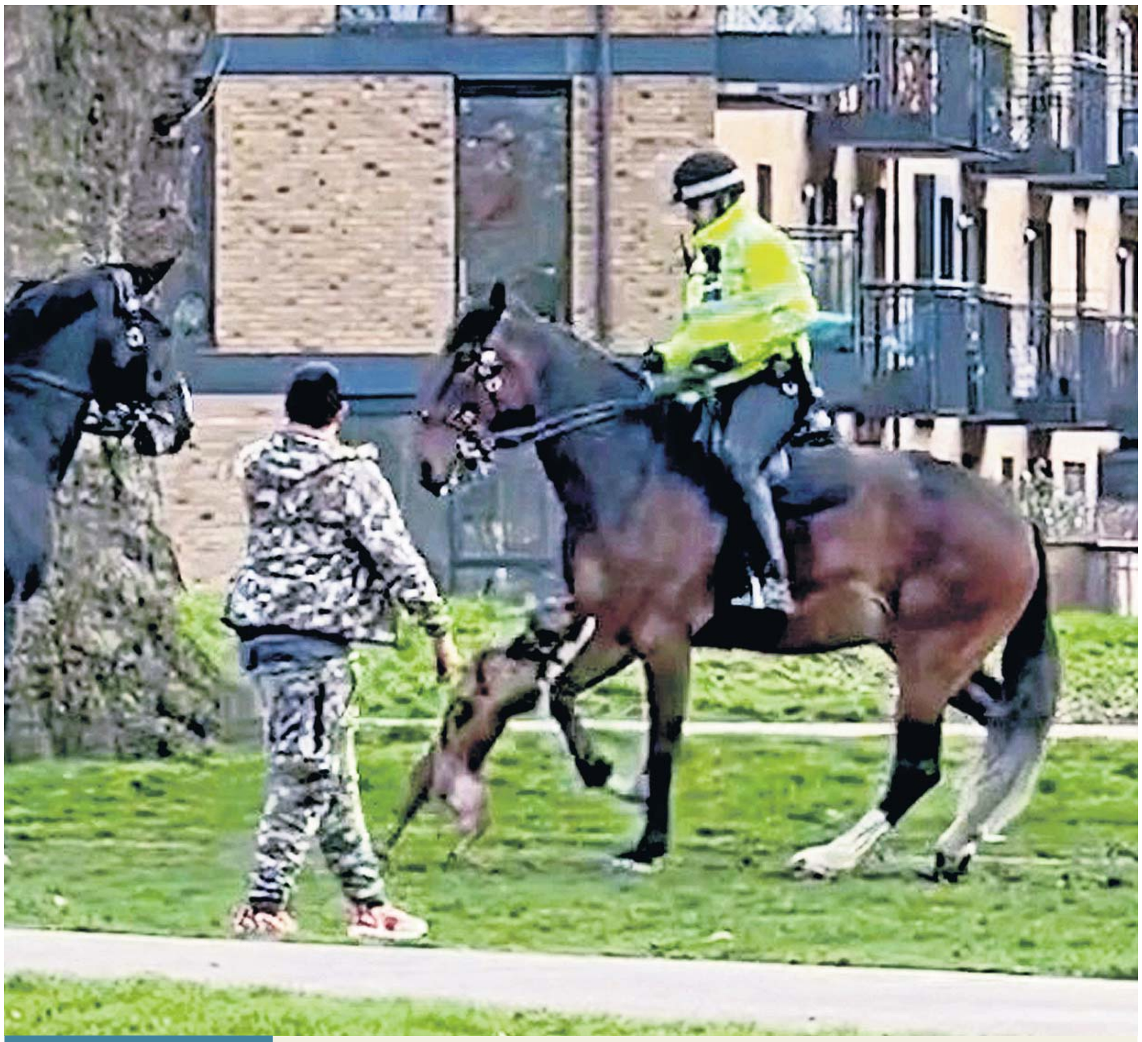
Sussex police said: "There is no law in the UK that prevents civilians carrying handcuffs. Anyone who does carry handcuffs should be aware that their use could constitute a crime, unless they can show that using them was reasonable and proportionate in the circumstances.

"A full and thorough investigation is ongoing to establish the exact circumstances of what happened; this includes reviewing footage and taking witness statements."





Security staff pin down the teenager inside a Superdrug store. The boy's mother, Kirsty Buchanan, left, posted video of the incident



## Dog's park attack on two police horses

A dog that attacked and injured two police horses in London has been seized by officers (Shayma Bakht writes).

The dog, believed to be an American bully, is in police kennels after the incident on Wednesday afternoon in Victoria Park, east, London.

The Metropolitan Police said that Urbane had been attacked for five minutes while the dog's owner, Hakan Niyazi, looked on. Niyazi, who is in his twenties, insisted that Coco, is "so friendly" and that nothing like this had happened before.



Urbane, one of the injured horses, had met Camilla in 2019

Video clips circulated on TikTok showed members of the public trying to intervene as the dog bit at the legs of the two horses, which jumped and kicked as the officers tried to stay mounted.

After a member of the public managed to grab the dog, one of the officers dismounted and shouted at Niyazi to put it on a lead.

Both Urbane and the second horse, which has not been named were said to be traumatised. The Met tweeted that Urbane, who met the Duchess of Cornwall, now the Queen, during a royal visit in 2019, had been removed from duty and had had stitches.

Niyazi, a college student who has owned Coco, for a year, said that the horses were to blame for the incident and that the dog had been "intimidated". He told The Sun: "She felt threatened."



A witness said the attack had been "shocking and scary". No arrests had been made, the Met said.

# Stalker and mother set for jail after targeting victim's partner

Will Humphries
Southwest Correspondent

A stablehand has been convicted of stalking after framing a doctor's daughter's boyfriend as a cheat and having her father investigated for paedophilia.

Beaumont Bricka, 26, bombarded Eve Taylor, 24, with messages from fake social media accounts telling her to kill herself. Bricka made it appear that Taylor's innocent boyfriend, Tim Dobson, was orchestrating the messages, leading to the pair breaking up. Dobson was arrested and left on the brink of suicide.

Bricka, who travels for international showjumping events, also sent himself death threats from the fake accounts to convince Taylor he was a victim too.

He targeted nine other people connected to Taylor, including her father Dr Tim Taylor, medical director at Western Sussex Hospitals NHS trust, who he falsely claimed was a paedophile.

When detectives caught up with Bricka in April 2020, his mother, Tonia, 63, claimed that she was the stalker.

The pair face jail after Bricka was convicted of stalking, sending malicious communications and perverting the course of justice. His mother was convicted of perverting the course of justice. Remanding the pair in custody at Portsmouth crown court, Judge Richard Shepherd told Bricka he was an "intelligent, manipulative and corrosive liar".

Bricka, who lives with his mother in Aldingbourne, West Sussex, had met Taylor, a make-up artist, at the stables by his home and carried out his campaign from 2019 to 2020.

Bricka set up fake accounts in girls' names on Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat and WhatsApp, at least 34 phone numbers and six email addresses, and used three mobile phones. He contacted Taylor, her family and her friends to wrongly claim that Dobson, a plumber, was cheating on her.

He was caught after CCTV showed him topping up a pay-as-you-go phone used to send some of the messages. Other phones and papers with victims' numbers on were found at his house.

Bricka also spread lies suggesting that Taylor was suffering from sexually transmitted diseases or was an escort, and branding her a "cheating witch".

Her father was investigated by the NHS after Bricka made a complaint that he had inappropriately messaged an 11-year-old girl.



Tonia and Beau Bricka were convicted over messages to Eve and Tim Taylor

Taylor said she had grown closer to Bricka and felt "incredibly guilty" that he was getting death threats. She told the jury: "It was horrible, the messages made me feel dirty. It felt threatening and felt directed at Beau, who at the time I felt concerned for."

Bricka told the court that he had a "lonely" upbringing and few friends, but claimed that he had been "shocked and horrified" by the stalking as he denied being behind it.

His mother insisted that she was the stalker, claiming she was "addicted to it", but the jury was told her claims were "vague" and "nonsense".

The pair will be sentenced in May.


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# Becket's troublesome preposition was a Protestant slur

Jack Blackburn History Correspondent

Thomas Becket was known as a troublesome priest — or at least he was when it came to what to call him. Millions will insist his name was a letter longer, but, adamant though some pedants are, no one has ever been sure who put the "à" in Thomas à Becket.

However, a historian has now traced its origins and discovered that, far from being a harmless affectation, the "à" was a Protestant slur designed to undermine the Catholic's saintly status. What is more, its use appears to have been inspired by the tales of Robin Hood.

Dr John Jenkins, from the University of York, who published his research in Open Library of Humanities, says the "à" was the final part of a 16th-century smear campaign. "Most of the earliest uses of 'a Becket' or 'of Becket' were in polemics and sermons where Becket's name and medieval cult was mocked as frippery or used in throwaway, derisory references," Jenkins says.

The origin of the "à" therefore lies in the English Reformation. Before then, Becket was widely known as St Thomas of Canterbury, the former archbishop and chancellor to Henry II who had fought for the church's rights before being murdered in his own cathedral.

Foreigners noted how much homage the English paid to him, with sailors praying to him on stormy seas and thousands making the pilgrimage to the site of his assassination.

However, this cult was then a problem for Henry VIII, having installed himself as the head of the new Church of England. Henry had little interest in venerating a Catholic who had championed the rights of the church against those of the Crown.

A concerted campaign began with Thomas Cromwell, Henry's chief minister, ordering the saint be referred to as Bishop Becket. Plays of the time began to portray Becket as cantankerous and even traitorous, until this reputation took hold.

Some have argued that the "à" preposition was invented as an echo of Thomas à Kempis, the 15th-century Dutch canon, but Jenkins dismisses this as anachronistic.

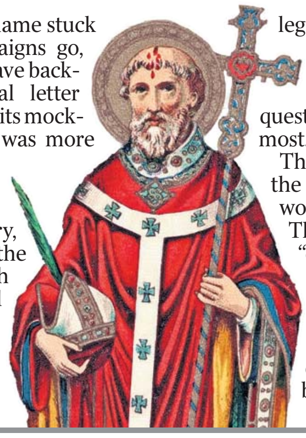
When the "à" did arrive in 1596, it was referring not to Becket's saintliness but to the bawdy tales of the day. Jenkins says the interposed vowel was first used by Thomas Nashe, a satirist who collaborated with Shakespeare and is thought to have contributed to Henry VI Part I.

Meaning "of", the preposition was most familiar from the tales of Robin Hood and characters such as George-a-Green and Alan-a-Dale. As such, it had particular overtones. "It has this sort of rustic, rural connotation," Jenkins explained. "Nashe is folding him into this rather brawling, simpler age."

It is a condescending term, implying Becket was crude and hinting at his lowly heritage. The name stuck but, as smear campaigns go, this one appears to have backfired. The additional letter lasted far longer than its mocking connotations. It was more pleasing to say and ultimately lent a sense of grandeur.

"In the 19th century, historians are saying the 'à' is something which applies to heroes and legends," Jenkins said. "I was involved with the exhibition at the British Museum and it was the question we got asked the most."

This research does not settle the debate, however, as it would be wrong to think of Thomas Becket as being the "correct" name. The man himself would have spelt it "Beket", perhaps after the Bec region of France or, more cruelly, a term derived from his father's beaky nose.



**The central "à" was intended to sully the saint's name**

# TMS

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## Truss rocked the status quo

Roll up! Roll up! You finally have the chance to book the notedly fluent and engaging Liz Truss, below, to do some public speaking. Truss, who was to 10 Downing Street what Lady Jane Grey was to the English monarchy, has signed with Chartwell Speakers, whose profile of her is lengthy, apart from the section on her premiership which is necessarily brief. "She faced huge resistance from those who wanted to maintain the status quo," it explains, thus providing a handy phrase for anyone at a job interview who has to explain why they didn't stay in their last job for very long.

*Another ex-PM, Boris Johnson, still has supporters after his committee hearing. In the Daily Express, the MP for Blackpool South, Scott Benton, compared the occasion to famous courtroom dramas, including a real life one. Johnson must have been thrilled when Benton compared him to that infamously innocent man, OJ Simpson.*

**TRUMP ON DECKS**

As he awaits arrest, Donald Trump is exploring new career paths. The New York Times reports that he "acted as a DJ" and picked the music during a party at his Palm Beach resort. Spotify actually has lists of favourite songs from Trump's rallies, and he is very fond of the Rolling Stones. For some reason, *Sympathy for the Devil* and *You Can't Always Get What You Want* just speak to him. More concerning though for US politics, he's also keen on Elton John's *I'm Still Standing.*

**BRAGGING RIGHTS**

Talking about your tax returns is back in political fashion, but there was a time when some MPs weren't so hesitant on the subject. When his book sales took off, Jeffrey Archer would brag that his tax bill paid the salaries for the whole cabinet. He would then recall being in a bank and seeing an advert that said "Is your income over £20,000?". He said "I couldn't really answer. Some days it is, some days it isn't." Hard to see why he acquired so many enemies, isn't it?

**MP ATTACKED BY BULL**

Britain and Ukraine did battle this week as mature nations should: on the chessboard. Lindsay Hoyle, the Speaker, played a match in parliament against Ukraine's ambassador, while there was also a contest between the Commons and the Lords. Across 12 matches the MPs triumphed 9.5-2.5, despite having to do it in a rush. "I played blitzkrieg chess to win or lose within 14 minutes before voting," said the Tory MP Guy Opperman, whose blitzkrieg ended in defeat. He was suspicious though as he found himself up against a twentysomething. "Either I drew the youngest lord who ever lived, or they invited a ringer," he said. His opponent, Adam Bull, a PhD candidate, prefers to be called a "House of Lords researcher".

*In the latest in our series of bureaucratic logic, a reader, Andrew Smith, recalls taking part in a consultation to redevelop a railway station where he asked whether the bus station (almost a mile away) could be moved closer. "The planning officer replied it would be inappropriate," Smith says, "as the current location was a place where many bus routes converged." Damn near immovable are buses: perhaps it would have been easier to move the station.*



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# Langue legal fight ahead as puristes seek Franglais ban

**Charles Bremner** Paris

Excessive use of English by Notre Dame and the French post office have prompted legal action in defence of the French language.

The cathedral and La Poste are among the targets in a series of lawsuits filed by language defence groups who are particularly outraged by the way that businesses, public institutions and figures including President Macron are adopting English despite decades of state efforts to stem the invasion.

The most egregious case, in the eyes of the plaintiffs, is "Ma French Bank", the online bank recently opened by La Poste. Other flagrant abuses include hybrid coinages such as Ouigo, ("We go") the SNCF railways' low-cost high-speed trains, and Sarthe Me Up, a punning slogan invented in Le Mans to promote the département of le Sarthe.

The authority in charge of reconstruction after the Notre Dame fire of 2019 is accused of breaching a 1994 law that requires any translation on public signs to be in two foreign languages. The aim was to avoid giving precedence to English. "If there's only one foreign language, it's always Anglo-American," said Louis Maisonneuve, head of the Observatoire des Libertés, a coalition of groups including his own French Language Defence Association. The association has already scored a victory at the Eiffel Tower, with Spanish added to its signs as well as English.

The campaigners have turned their sights on the organisers of next year's Paris Olympic Games, who advertised for volunteers with the condition that they must speak French, English or both. No other language was specified.

After decades of effort the ministry of culture and the Académie Française, the 388-year-old official guardian of the language, are failing to stop the pollution of French by "Globish", or global English, the defenders claim.

English, or English-sounding words, are used systemically despite laws banning or curbing their use by state broadcasters, civil servants and advertising.

Macron, a former investment banker who worked in London, switches into his heavily accented but fluent version of "the language of Shakespeare", as the French call English, even in the Élysée Palace. "When he is abroad, he talks 'the language of convention', which is English," Maisonneuve complained to Le Figaro newspaper. In contrast President Chirac once walked out of a Brussels summit when addressed in English.

An agency of the culture ministry churns out French alternatives for new words every month to little avail. The latest batch includes *espace numérique* for digital workplace and *photovoyeurisme* for upskirting.

The ministry itself has offended purists, however, by creating a "French cinema award". The fire brigade of Clermont Ferrand in central France is in trouble for organising a "concours de rope climbing" (*grimper de corde*).

Ma French Bank defended itself, saying it was entering into the spirit of state campaigns to promote France internationally with the slogans "made in France" and "le French touch", which "mix French and a dash of English while staying accessible".

**France's pension protests, page 30**

### Lost in translation

| Don't say | Say |
|---|---|
| food truck | camion-cantine ambulant |
| le drive | le service au volant |
| pitch | présentation |
| le news | l'info |
| overbooké | débordé |
| brainstorming | remue-méninges |
| deadline | date butoir |
| forwarder (verb) | transférer |
| burnout | surmenage |

CASTLE FINE ART/PA





**Many talents** Having made an art of stagecraft, the comedian Sir Billy Connolly, 80, has created a collection of six drawings, Born On a Rainy Day, which are being sold by Castle Fine Art

# Pet dog lands reality TV star with a £1m tax bill

**Jonathan Ames** Legal Editor

A reality television contestant has lost a legal row over a £1 million tax bill in a case that hinged on the whereabouts of his dog.

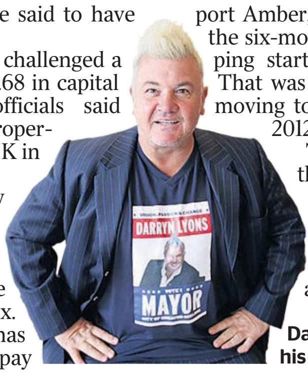
Darryn Lyons, the Australian owner of an international paparazzi agency, appeared in the 2011 series of *Celebrity Big Brother* in Britain. He amused viewers with his surgically enhanced "six-pack" abs, which were said to have cost £4,000.

Last year Lyons, 57, challenged a demand for £1,087,413.68 in capital gains tax, which officials said related to the sale of properties he owned in the UK in 2012-13.

Lyons, who now lives in Australia, claimed he was not resident in the UK that year and therefore not liable to pay the tax. A tax tribunal judge has now ordered him to pay after pointing out that Lyons's dog, Amber, was still in Britain at the relevant time. The judge said that as Amber was much-loved by Lyons, leaving her in the UK proved he had not moved to Australia.

Lyons had taken jewellery to Australia, Tracey Bowler, the judge acknowledged, as well as a Ferrari. But although efforts began in December 2011 to assess what needed to be done to transport Amber, the judge said "none of the six-month process for her shipping started until January 2012". That was "consistent" with Lyons moving to Australia after April 6, 2012, the start of that tax year.

The tribunal also found that Lyons had maintained investments in the UK, "as well as matters connected with day-to-day life such as doctor and dentist registrations".




**Darryn Lyons' dog belied his claim to live in Australia**



# Victims' charities warn against protecting identity of suspects

David Woode
Crime Correspondent

Proposals that would protect the identity of suspects charged with serious crimes could prevent victims from coming forward and "undermine transparency" in the justice system, campaigners said.

A draft of police media guidance suggests that forces should "be more inclined" to name suspects where the crime is of a "serious nature such as rape or murder". Existing guidance is "proactively" to name suspects.

Under the plans, forces would no longer be told they "should" name individuals charged with crimes such as domestic violence, arson and coercive and controlling behaviour. The College of Policing, which sets guidance for police in England and Wales, is instead considering advising that forces "can" name suspects in such cases.

The Information Commissioner's Office, a non-governmental body set up to uphold information rights, proposed the amendments to take account of data protection law.

Women's Aid, a charity that aims to end domestic violence against women and children, cited cases of women who had experienced male violence coming forward after a suspect had been named. Lucy Hadley, its head of policy, said: "Open justice is a key principle of our legal system. It is critical that when a person is accused of a crime, the police are able to seek further evidence from the public.

"We would be concerned by any proposals which seek to undermine transparency in our justice system. At a time of serious concern with police response to domestic abuse, it is vital that police investigations are not undermined further and forces are sending a message that women will be believed if they come forward," she said.

The case of David Carrick, a Metropolitan Police officer, illustrates how naming a suspect can lead to the exposure of further crimes. In October 2021 Carrick was charged with one rape and named in the press, days after Wayne Couzens, another serving police officer, had been sentenced to serve his whole life in jail for the rape and murder of Sarah Everard.

Detectives at Hertfordshire police said their investigation "snowballed" when a dozen women came forward to say they had also been victims of Carrick after seeing the media coverage.

Carrick was later unmasked as one of Britain's worst sexual offenders. In January this year he was convicted of more than 80 sexual offences, including 48 rapes. He was jailed for life with a minimum term of 30 years.

Victim Support, which helps victims and witnesses of crime, said: "Open justice is vital to ensuring that offences do not go under the radar and to giving victims the confidence to report. The police must take into account that naming suspects can encourage more victims to come forward."

The College of Policing said: "We understand the depth of feeling on these issues and the public interest in getting any changes to the guidance right. No decision to introduce these changes has been made at this time or will be made without consultation."

**Police must identify those charged, Sean O'Neill, Thunderer, page 26**




# Four in ten 'at war' with their family

Charlie Moloney

The adage "you can choose your friends, but you can't choose your family" appears to be very much alive in modern Britain, a survey suggests.

Four in ten people are "at war" with a family member, with one in three not having spoken to a relative for more than three years. The top reasons were given as selfishness, life choices, relationship issues, parenting differences and issues with children, according to the survey of 2,000 people.

Many have also had issues with children, jealousy, or believed others were not pulling their weight.

Over half of Gen Zs, people born since the mid-1990s, asked in the survey, which was commissioned by ICE 36, an online gambling company, were caught in a family feud, while less than a third of those over 60 were. However, the over-60s were most likely to hold a grudge, with one in three reporting having been locked in an argument for more than ten years.

A separate study found that British parents undertake unpaid household chores worth the equivalent of a salary of £70,768 a year, including as taxi driver, cleaner, nanny and personal assistant.

Parents were spending 29 hours a week cooking, preparing and serving food and drinks, ten hours playing with the children, the same amount of time driving on the school run, to activities, clubs and playdates, and nine hours giving advice.

One in five of the parents polled never receive a thank you from the rest of their family for the work they do, making them feel unmotivated, frustrated and annoyed.

Miguel Muruaga, investment adviser at digital wealth manager Moneyfarm, which commissioned the survey of 2,000 British parents, said: "There's no doubt that running a family home can be mentally and physically exhausting and as a society we need to value and recognise the enormous amount of unpaid labour that parents; whether stay-at-home or working, are undertaking."



## IN THE TIMES TOMORROW

BUSINESS
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SAT REVIEW
**GILBERT AND GEORGE**
Why we love the royals
PULLOUT

SPORT
**SAM WARBURTON**
How to fix the England team in time for the rugby World Cup
MAIN BOOK





WEEKEND
**The hot cross bun taste test**
Best and worst in the supermarkets
PULLOUT



# Farmer's daughter wins claim over 'sexist' will

**Jonathan Ames** Legal Editor

A farmer's daughter who was dismissed by her brothers as a "silly woman" has won £650,000 after a judge ruled that her hard work had unjustly enriched them.

Julie Mate, 62, told the High Court she had been ignored by her father when he drafted a will for his £9 million estate. She sued her brothers, Andrew and Robert Mate, after they inherited their parents' dairy farm in West Yorkshire.

Mate argued that she had worked alongside her brothers on the land and, as a child, had sacrificed her social and school life to help out. As a young adult she had envisaged helping her brothers to run the farm, but when she graduated after studying animal science her brothers told her she was not wanted.

When Donald, her father, died in 1992 he left his share of the farm to his wife, Shirley, and his two sons. Shirley Mate, who is now 89, ultimately handed her share of the estate to her two sons.

Julie Mate argued that she and her two sisters, who each received £12,000 from their father's will, were the victims of a sexist tradition, which left "us girls" with next to "nowt" despite having contributed years of work on the farm. She did not challenge the will, but has received £652,000 from her brothers after a judge found that it was her work that had helped the value of part of the land to rocket from £300,000 to £9 million.

The judge, Andrew Sutcliffe KC, said the brothers had been "unjustly enriched" by her years of effort to have the land removed from the green belt so it could be sold to developers. He said it was right she should share in the windfall.

The court had been told that her parents were partners in a milk bottling and retail business that operated from Fold Farm, in Netherton, near Huddersfield. It emerged in court that from childhood, Julie Mate had had a poor



**Julie Mate's brothers were "unjustly enriched" by her hard work, the judge said**

relationship with her brothers. When he was 17, Andrew Mate, now 60, had driven a Land Rover at her in the farmyard; and Robert, then 23 and now 65, put his hands around her throat and said: "You're not coming back" after she indicated that she wanted to return after university.

In his ruling, the judge said that although the brothers denied or did not recall these incidents, "I accept that they occurred".

Mate eventually worked as an agricultural journalist and a senior executive in dairy companies and farming organisations. She lives in north Shropshire with her partner, where she has a herd of red deer and supplies venison to Waitrose and Marks & Spencer.

The judge said the brothers had been enriched by their sister's services in "circumstances which were unjust because they knew she was not providing those services gratuitously and they made no attempt to reward her for them".

JAMESY/GOTCHA IMAGES



**Low profile** The actress Cate Blanchett hid in plain sight in London on Wednesday

# Debt-ridden council seeks return of £437,000 payout

**Andrew Ellson**

Croydon council will seek to claw back the near half a million pound payoff given to its ex-chief executive in "unprecedented action" to hold former leaders to account for "misconduct, wrongdoing and failures".

In what is thought to be a first for local government the south London borough, which has declared itself bankrupt three times in two years, said councillors had backed legal action to recover as much of the settlement paid to Jo Negrini as is legally possible.

Negrini was handed a package worth £437,000 when she left in the summer of 2020 shortly before the council first went bankrupt. The payment was agreed at a secretive meeting of councillors that has since been described by the authority's own top lawyer as "potentially unlawful".

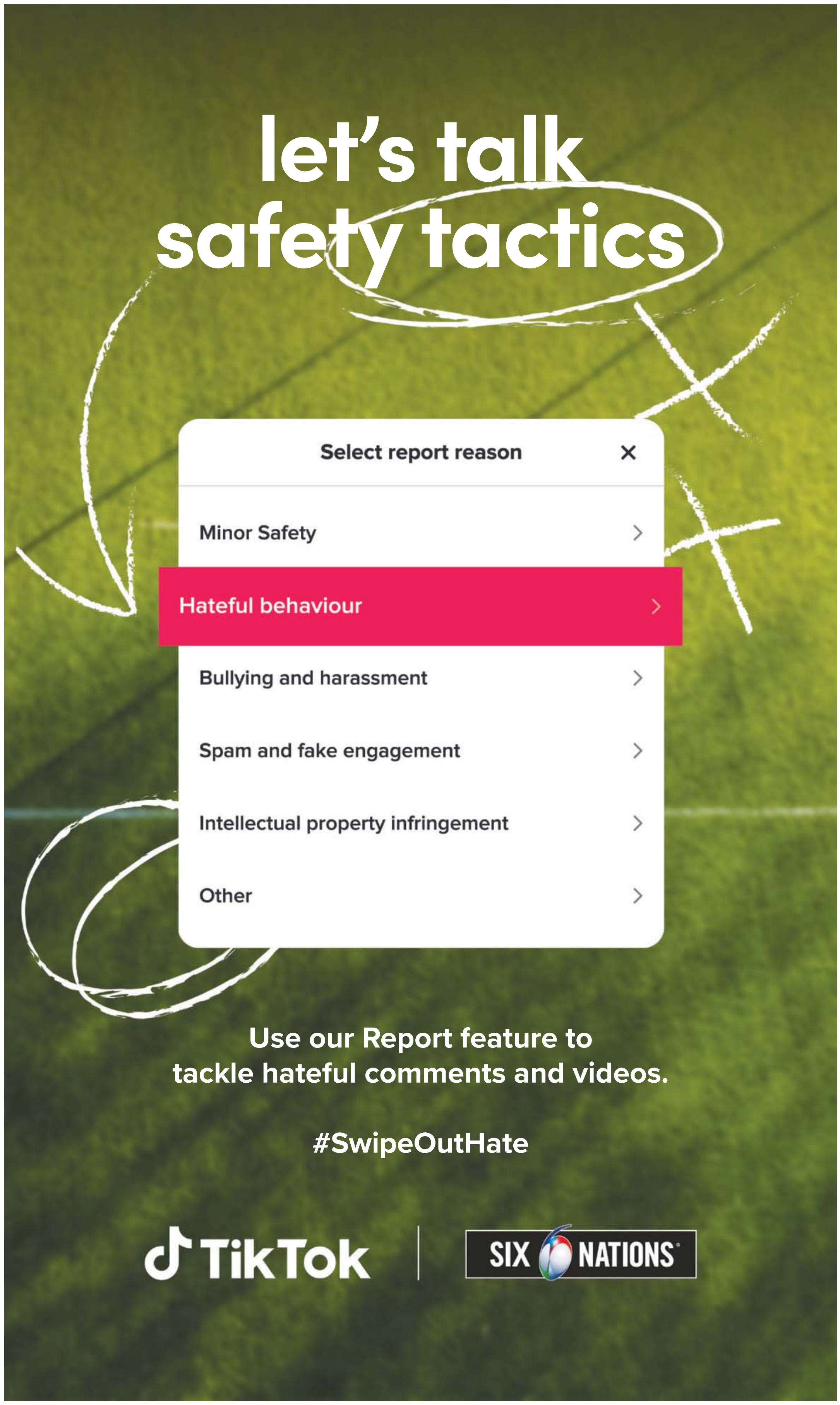
Negrini now works at Arup, the engineering consultancy that Croydon commissioned in 2014 to build a "development dashboard".

The council will also be referring a series of reports on failures to the police; and referring other senior officers to their professional bodies. This could see its former financial director, Lisa Taylor, face disciplinary action. Last month, it emerged that Croydon has asked the government to write off half a billion pounds of its debts after a series of disastrous property investments and financial mismanagement.

The council, now under Tory control but which got into most of its financial difficulty under Labour, owes £1.6 billion. Residents face a 15 per cent council tax rise to help pay down the debt.

Despite the failings, there appears little prospect of Croydon getting back much of Negrini's payoff. Legal advice seen by The Times states that while her failures likely amounted to a breach of contract, the lack of proper record keeping meant that proving the case in court would be difficult.

The advice adds the cost of litigation would be high and the maximum amount it could hope to retrieve was £96,000, because most of the settlement was paid to Negrini's pension, which was untouchable. Negrini denies any wrongdoing.



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## Lawyer blazes TikTok trail to net new clients

Suspects in Birmingham police stations may be bemused when their solicitor rolls up in a yellow Lamborghini and updates his TikTok account before advising on whether to give a "no comment" interview (Jonathan Ames writes).

But Akhmed Yakoob, 35, is unabashed about his financial success, which is increasingly driven by social media marketing and his 106,000-strong following on the Chinese video-sharing platform.

The ban on solicitors advertising in England and Wales was dropped 36 years ago but marketing has broadly remained discreet.

However, discretion is not in Yakoob's lexicon. He has posed in a bespoke jacket that matches his £200,000 Lamborghini Urus and is fond of telling his followers: "Always remember — there is a defence for every offence." In one video, Yakoob sits next to a client and slaps him on the shoulder.

"Conspiracy to murder — that's what this innocent man was charged with, and he was facing life




# Third of children in poverty after cut to universal credit

**James Beal** Social Affairs Editor

Almost a third of children in the UK were living in poverty last year, new figures show.

A total of 4.2 million children, or 29 per cent of under-18s, were classed as being in relative poverty for the year ending April 2022, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) said.

Relative poverty is defined as any household living on less than 60 per cent of the national figure for median income after housing costs are taken into account.

About 350,000 more children were pulled into relative poverty last year after the government cut the weekly £20 universal credit increase introduced during the pandemic.

Alison Garnham, chief executive of the Child Poverty Action Group, said: "The figures show that investing in social security is the way to remove children from poverty. Indeed, the government did lift many kids from poverty with the £20 universal credit increase, but it plunged them back again with a subsequent cut.

"In the face of today's grim figures, and with another rise in inflation, it's inexcusable for ministers to sit on their hands. The government must extend free school meals, remove the benefit cap and two-child limit and increase child benefit."

The total of 4.2 million children in relative poverty was up from 3.9 million the previous year and 3.6 million in 2010-11. Some 45 per cent of all children in poverty were in families with a youngest child aged under five, while 71 per cent of poor children lived in working families. More than 800,000 children lived in a household that used a food bank.

About 2.7 million children were in deep poverty last year — defined as households with less than 50 per cent of median income after housing costs — 500,000 more than in 2010-11.

The figures showed that 47 per cent of children from UK Asian families and 53 per cent of children in black British, African or Caribbean households in the UK were in poverty, compared with 25 per cent of children in white families.

Forty-four per cent of children in single-parent families and 42 per cent of those in families with three or more children were in poverty, up six percentage points in a decade.

More than two million pensioners, or 18 per cent, remain in poverty, the DWP "households below average income" figures also showed.

A government spokesman said: "These latest figures reflect the country coming out of the pandemic and accompanying rising prices, which we have since helped to address with record levels of support via cost of living payments to over eight million households, and plans to provide up to £1,350 of direct payments for the most vulnerable over this year and next.

"This is on top of the Household Support Fund, worth over £2 billion, which is helping those struggling with the cost of living with essential food and energy costs."



**Breathtaking** Alex Steele, 82, a former Scotland international, is still padding up despite lung problems that require him to carry an oxygen tank. His catch in Dundee for Rossie Priory was one of Wisden's cricket photographs of the year



imprisonment," Yakoob says, before adding that, thankfully for his client, "the prosecution's case was weak, to say the least".

Yakoob is the director of Maurice Andrews Solicitors in Birmingham, a firm that is exclusively devoted to criminal defence work. His clientele is a mix of privately paying clients and those funded by the state through legal aid.

Yakoob said he initially posted on TikTok "as a hobby" but decided about a year ago to take it more seriously. "It soon became very good for business," he said. "I now get many clients through TikTok — it is a very useful way to grow my brand." He thinks others will follow suit. "Why wouldn't they?" he said. "It's free after all."




Akhmed Yakoob, who drives a £200,000 Lamborghini Urus, has amassed 106,000 followers with his videos

# Chief tells of 'shame' over Met

**Constance Kampfner**

One of Britain's most senior police officers said yesterday that he felt "shame" at the state of the profession and would have concerns about joining as a woman or black man today.

However, Martin Hewitt, the outgoing chairman of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) who is stepping down next week after holding the position since May 2019, rejected calling the Metropolitan Police "institutionally racist".

His departure comes at a turbulent time after this week's publication of a critical review of the Met, which was found to have lost public faith amid institutional misogyny, racism and homophobia.

Baroness Casey of Blackstock said that Scotland Yard could no longer be trusted to police itself owing to "systemic and fundamental" issues, including a rotten culture and an inadequate response to the abduction, rape and murder of Sarah Everard by a serving officer.

Hewitt said he felt "anger, disappointment, sadness and shame" reading the report. He said there was "absolutely no doubt" that discrimination existed in policing, but he believed that the term "institutional racism" was "incredibly divisive".

"There are clearly officers that are just evil and off the scale in terms of how bad their behaviour is," he said. "But at the same time, there is still the majority of police officers who are out there doing their job day in, day out and caught against a backdrop of real challenging negativity."

His comments echoed those of Sir Mark Rowley, the commissioner of the Met, who said on Tuesday that while he accepted "the diagnosis" of Casey's findings, he would not use the term "institutionally racist" to describe the force.

The NPCC chairman said that the anger felt towards officers like Wayne Couzens, who was given a life sentence for the murder of Everard, or David Carrick, who was jailed for life for a series of rapes committed while he was a Met officer, "exists as strongly within our own organisations".

"I had never felt shame at being a police officer. The day I heard about Couzens, I did," he said.

Hewitt, who is a former Met officer with a 30-year career in policing, said that recent events had led him to reflect on his time in the profession. It was crucial that police forces recruited "from all parts of society" to rebuild trust, he said. However, he added: "Let's not pretend that that's not going to be difficult because it really is going to be difficult.

"A young woman will now be thinking: 'What am I going to subject myself to if I go and work in that organisation?'"

Hewitt said it was "hard" to know whether he would join the force today if he were a young black man but hoped that he would still be able to convince people that policing was "a thing for good".

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DONALD MCLEOD

# New chapter for prisoners as inmates lead reading lessons

**Matt Dathan** Home Affairs Editor

A scheme to improve literacy levels behind bars will involve hundreds of prisoners teaching their fellow inmates.

Six in ten adult male prisoners have reading skills lower than those expected of an 11-year-old, which holds them back from securing a job or training and staying away from a life of crime.

Two charities have been awarded £1.8 million to pilot new reading and writing programmes over the next two years in 15 prisons across England and Wales. The programmes will be targeted at about 750 prisoners with the aim of bringing more offenders into classrooms.

The Shannon Trust will use the funding to recruit full-time staff to introduce prisoner-to-prisoner reading programmes across nine jails. It builds on current work that relies on volunteers.

A prison service source compared the initiative to the recent BBC prison drama *Time*, which followed Mark Cobden, a teacher played by Sean Bean, who was sentenced to four years in prison and used his time inside to teach other prisoners how to read. Extra funding will also go to the National Literacy Trust, which will run monthly events at six prisons for more advanced readers, including reading groups and creative writing sessions.

Rebecca Perry, of the National Literacy Trust, said: "Negative experiences of formal learning, and exclusion from school, are common themes among people in prison, so we ensure that our activities offer inspiring creative spaces."

Damian Hinds, the prisons minister, said: "Evidence shows that being able to read and write to a decent standard after prison can make all the difference between a positive, law-abiding life or a return to crime. From plotting a route to work or training, to paying the bills or shopping for food — these skills are crucial in keeping prisoners on the straight and narrow and the public safe."

Karen Ryan, of the Shannon Trust, said the funding would help tackle reoffending rates. She said: "We know that learning to read transforms not only the life of the learner, but everyone around them. It leads to stronger family relationships, improved prospects for work and education, and ultimately can reduce reoffending, building stronger communities."

News

# Daisy's evolved approach to seducing fly boys

**Kaya Burgess** Science Reporter

Buzzing overhead, a male fly spots an alluring female sitting on the petals of a daisy and swoops down to make his move. He attempts to mate with her but finds that, despite his best efforts, he is unable to. Bemused, he flies away.

The only winner from this tryst is the daisy itself, which has just pulled off a unique trick to dupe the male fly. It has evolved a complex structure on its petals that closely resembles a female fly, using the disguise to lure in male flies who dust the flower with pollen as they perform their futile mating ritual. The *Gorteria diffusa*, found in South Africa, is the only daisy known to have evolved this disguise and has intrigued scientists for decades.

Researchers have now discovered that three sets of genes which perform key functions in the flower also combine to create the structure that mimics female flies.

The disguise is perfect down to the finest details. The spot on the flower's petals is a three-dimensional patch, complete with hairy bumps and white hairs, creating what is effectively a fake female fly.

Researchers from the University of Cambridge have found that one set of genes responsible for moving iron around the flower helps to change the colour of the patch from a reddish-purple to a more fly-like blue-green. The set of genes that creates hairs on the plant's roots help to give the patch its fly-like texture. And another set of genes helps the patches to appear in random places on the petals.

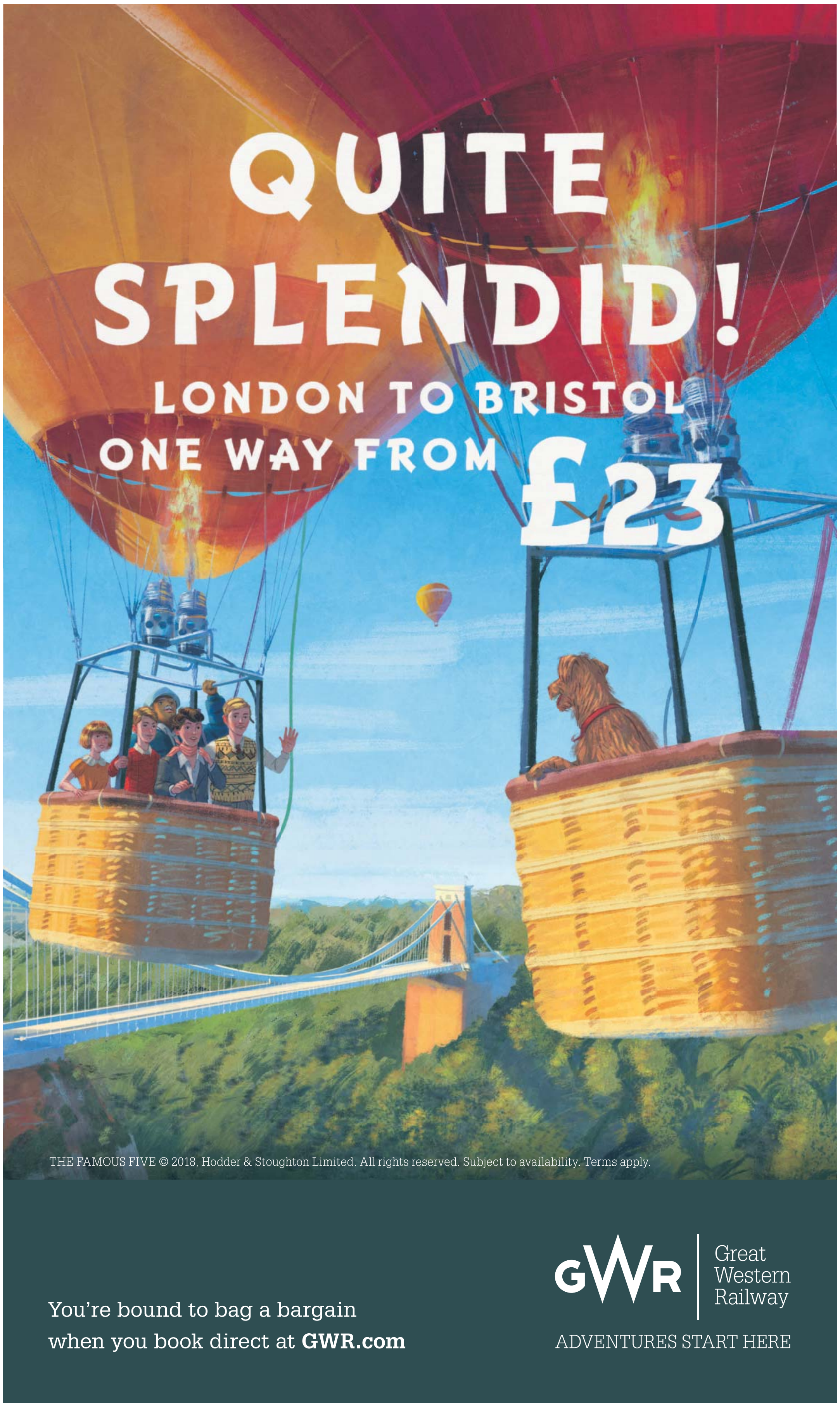
"This daisy didn't evolve a new 'make-a-fly' gene," said Professor Beverley Glover from Cambridge's department of plant science. "Instead it did something even cleverer — it brought together existing genes, which already do other things in different parts of the plant, to make a complicated spot on the petals that deceives male flies." They made the discovery by analysing which genes were switched "on" or "off" on the daisies with the fake-fly patches compared to those without — and also to daisies with spots that do not resemble flies.

*Gorteria diffusa* grows in harsh, dry desert in South Africa, giving it only a short rainy season in which to get pollinated and create seeds. The species comes from a family that only emerged through evolution between 1-2 million years ago, making it relatively young.

"We'd expect that something as complex as a fake fly would take a long time to evolve, involving lots of genes and lots of mutations, but actually by bringing together three existing sets of genes it has happened much more quickly," said Dr Roman Kellenberger from Cambridge, lead author of the study. "Male flies don't stay long on flowers with simple spots, but they're so convinced by these fake flies that they spend extra time trying to mate, and rub off more pollen onto the flower, helping to pollinate it," he said.



**Gorteria diffusa combined existing genes to create spots that look like female flies**


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**Indicting Trump is a gift from his enemies**
Gerard Baker
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# Comment

# Starmer is credible, but where's the big idea?

## The leader talks like a Blairite but lacks the political philosophy, thinkers and champions that characterised New Labour

**Sebastian Payne**



@SEBASTIANEPAYNE

Paul "Red" Adair was the supreme problem solver of his day — if your problem was a vast oil field ablaze. The daring Texan swept across the globe to battle more than 2,000 fires using careful skill and long experience. Aged 73, Adair saved hundreds of lives by putting out flames on the Piper Alpha platform in the North Sea, making him a household name well past retirement age.

In Adair's dexterity and determination, Rishi Sunak may recognise skills required to solve the thorniest of political challenges, although the prime minister's persona is more chief restructuring officer, hired from an expensive management consultancy to turn round a failing company. Six months into his premiership, however, the spread of fires in the Conservative Party is being snuffed out.

The Brexit debate has mercifully been laid to rest through the parliamentary approval of the Windsor framework with the meekest of rebellions. Tough action on small boats demonstrates the toughest intent. The recent budget affirmed fiscal stability, together with reforms to encourage growth. And the tedious Boris Johnson hearing signalled the beginning of the end of the Downing Street parties ordeal.

Although an election campaign has yet to come into vision, it is now clear how Sunak will sell himself to the nation: Rishi the problem solver. His governing efforts may not be the most enthralling but they are chipping away at important issues. The prime minister's personal ratings have long outstripped his party's and have risen again recently. The danger, of course, is of further conflagrations at any moment.

So where does the problem solver leave the Labour Party? On the surface much is rosy for Sir Keir Starmer, with few fires of his own to stamp out. His own corporate restructuring project has been an unalloyed success, far more so than even his staunchest supporters could have dreamt of. From the pits of 2019, when the party faced self-immolation, it is now (at the least) in contention to form the next government.

Yet something is missing. There is an odd lack of any intellectual movement behind Starmer. Despite numerous efforts to engage the country, including no fewer than 11 slogans, he has failed to capture the

> Failing to capture 'the vision thing' explains the undecided voters

public's imagination or excite his party faithful. He has failed to articulate anything nearing Clement Attlee's "New Jerusalem" or Harold Wilson's "white heat". Failing to capture "the vision thing", as George H W Bush termed it, explains the historic number of undecided voters in the opinion polls at present.

At a similar electoral stage in the 1990s, Tony Blair had an ample movement. Will Hutton published his seminal text *The State We're In*, making the Blairite case for public realm reform. The Institute for Public Policy Research was making waves with its Commission on Social Justice, led by David Miliband. Columnists and commentators were making the daily case for Blair. There were gurus and thinkers aplenty: the Rev Peter Thomson, for one, gave Blair a communitarian grounding for his agenda. It was all captured by the Third Way philosophy that underpinned New Labour's time in power.

There is little or none of that today. Venerable left-wing institutions are publishing similar reports as in the 1990s, but none are closely tied to Starmer or have the sweep and influence you might expect for a party apparently on the cusp of power. There have been no tomes, books or columnists that have seized the zeitgeist. There are no philosophers dropping by the leader of the opposition's office for tea and a chat. Labour is succeeding purely because of what it is against, not what it is for.

This void has not been left for want of effort. Starmer launched the second of his major policy missions yesterday: after growth, he is targeting crime, with a gentle reminder that he used to be director of public prosecutions. He set out broad ambitions to reduce knife crime and violence against women and to improve police performance in solving crime. Yet there remained a lack of tangibility to what he was saying, and nothing that a Tory would digress from.

He is soon to be outgunned on crime too. On Monday, the government's long-awaited antisocial behaviour strategy will set out a series of practical steps to tackle one of our biggest blights. We can expect to hear about increased fines and enhanced drug testing on arrest, tougher punishments all round combined with new funding for community patrols. Police may be given more powers to clamp down



Starmer has not articulated anything close to Harold Wilson's "white heat"

on illegal drug use, along with much tougher sanctions for those who graffiti or fly-tip. Landlords may be granted powers to make it easier to heave out troublesome tenants.

The only area where Labour has made the weather is on childcare, with Bridget Phillipson, the shadow education secretary, arguing that nothing less than substantial reform is necessary to fix a systemic problem. When ministers seemed intent on tinkering, she successfully argued for far wider action. Yet the huge budget intervention, with free childcare extending from the age of nine months, means Labour is, once again, left with very little fresh to say.

Labour's problem is acute with its proposed Take Back Control bill, a rhetorical ruse for a mass devolution of power from Westminster. Again there is scant detail, no plan of what Starmer's Britain would look like. Part of the reason is that Starmer has not been forced to win an intellectual battle within the party. He saw off the hard left by strategically manoeuvring them back into the "sealed tomb" that Peter Mandelson once dreamt of. New Labour had constantly to make their case for upending the party's constitution, for the Third Way, for abandoning their traditional principles. For Jeremy

> He has not won an intellectual battle within the party

Corbyn, the personality cult collapsed when the personality disappeared.

Starmer's achievement has been to make Labour credible again. But he has failed to prove it is substantial once more. It has heeded only some lessons from the last time the party was in power. Starmer's team might walk and talk like Blairites, but they have still to act or deliver like Blarites.

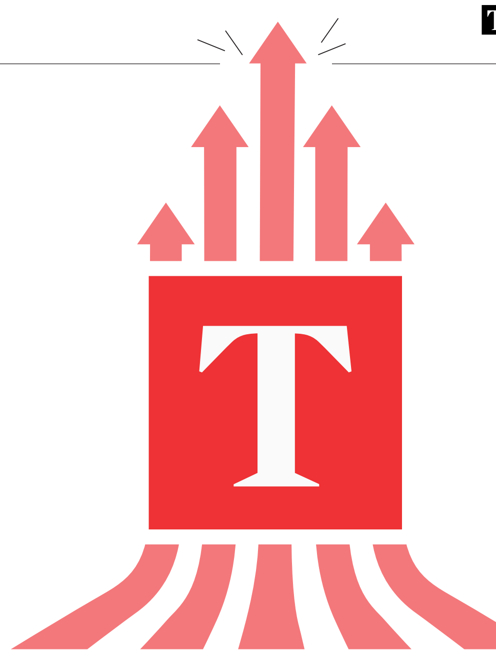
The same challenge could be said to face Sunak: despite the recent successes there is little sense of his mission to transform the country. But that is not his pitch. Labour faces an increasingly experienced problem solver who is putting out more fires than he is creating. For Starmer, arguing for change without the intellectual heft to back it up is the greatest flaw in his plan for power.

Sebastian Payne is director of Onward

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# SNP has the same core problem as the ANC

## Scotland's leadership highlights the cost to competence and probity of a focus on nationalism

**Emma Duncan**



Running a state-owned power utility does not sound like a particularly dangerous job but André de Ruyter, former chief executive of South Africa's Eskom, made the mistake of trying to clean up the corporation. Last December, somebody laced his coffee with cyanide. "This is a learning I can share: never have a personalised mug" was his — rather cool — verdict on the murder attempt.

Eskom, like much of the South African state, has become a feeding trough for the ruling African National Congress. Because ANC cronies are trousering the utility's resources, it has neglected to invest in power-generating capacity. Seven and a half hours of power cuts a day is normal. For my sister, who lives there, that means cooking on a two-ring camping stove. For the South African economy, it means disaster.

The ANC's corruption is destroying the country. Investment has dried up. The economy has stagnated. The wealth of a new black elite has done nothing for the vast majority of people. Three decades after the end of apartheid, South Africa is the most unequal country in the world.

Given the ANC's appalling performance, why do South Africans keep returning it to power? It's not because, as in Russia, an autocrat is successfully keeping the truth from people. South Africans know that the country's problems are the ANC's fault, but they go on voting for it.

The clue lies in the ANC's middle name. Because the ANC took on and beat the apartheid regime, it is seen as the founder of multiracial South Africa. The loyalty it commands as the standard-bearer of nationalism outweighs the opprobrium it attracts for its corruption and incompetence. It will eventually be ousted, either because voters have had enough or because South Africa will tip into chaos even worse than that over which the party now presides, but not before it has done a lot more damage.

The lights in Scotland still turn on at the flick of a switch. No murder attempts on power industry bosses have been reported. But there is a common theme: in both countries, nationalism has had a baleful influence on standards of governance.

> Britain as a whole has been suffering from the same affliction

If the Scottish National Party leadership contest, which will be decided on Monday, has the air of a general election rather than a race for party leadership, it is hardly surprising. The SNP has run Scotland for 16 years, so whoever gets the top job will lead Scotland until the next Holyrood election and very likely after it too.

Nationalism has turned Scotland into something of a one-party state. The overriding question in Scottish politics is whether the country should become independent or remain part of the Union. A simple sum therefore keeps the nationalists in power. The population is fairly evenly divided between nationalists and unionists. If you're a nationalist, there's only one party to vote for, while unionist votes are divided between three parties. And because these are the lines along which people vote, nationalism drowns out the duller question of whether Scotland is well run.

It's not. Scottish pupils, for instance, do worse at school than English or Welsh ones. You might think that was because Scotland is poorer than England, and substance-abuse problems more widespread, but the problem lies in Scottish schools, not Scottish homes. Very young Scottish children perform better than English ones; it is spending time in Scottish schools that leads them to fall behind.

Life expectancy in Scotland is three years lower than in England; the rate of drug deaths is three times higher. The SNP, though it sells itself as focused on improving social conditions, has failed to close either gap. Indeed, drug deaths have more than doubled while the nationalists have been in power. And all this while public spending per head in Scotland is a fifth higher than in England. No wonder Nicola Sturgeon wanted the next election to be a "de facto referendum": if people had voted on her record, they might have come up with the wrong answer.

It's not just competence that's thin on the ground in Scottish politics: probity, too, is in short supply. The feud between Sturgeon and her predecessor, Alex Salmond, was so public and bitter that it would have brought down a political party susceptible to normal pressures. But the SNP survived, thanks to its protective cloak of nationalism.

Hatred and suspicion are never far from the surface in the SNP. The leadership contest has embroiled it in a row over membership numbers that led Sturgeon to make the frankly incredible claim that she did not know membership had fallen by 30 per cent in the past two years. Since her husband was chairman, it seems likely that they would have at least discussed the matter over the Dundee marmalade. He has now resigned.

From south of the border, these shenanigans look risible; yet Britain as a whole has been suffering from the same affliction. For seven years, since the Brexit referendum, the issue of national identity has dominated our politics. As a result, we have had daft and dishonest prime ministers and cabinets chosen not for their competence but for their views on Europe. The result has been the worst governance I've ever known.

We are, thankfully, moving on. In numbers 10 and 11 Downing Street, we have two people who have their flaws but are at least competent and public-spirited. If Scots, next time they get the chance, vote for people who they think would run their country better, not who brandish the saltire most passionately, they could see a similar improvement. South Africa, I fear, has a very long way to go.

## Max Hastings Notebook

# Tarzan is still lord of the jungle, 90 years on

On Tuesday the former deputy prime minister and titan of British statesmanship Michael Heseltine held his 90th birthday bash at the Savoy. Some 300 of us groupies, including bevies of gardeners, media folk and ex-cabinet ministers, headed by Sir John Major, who gives a daily masterclass in elder statesmanship, cheered Lord Heseltine to the rafters.

Michael's wife, Anne, in a Givenchy ballgown worthy of Audrey Hepburn, made a speech that almost eclipsed that of the birthday boy. A 40-strong Welsh male voice choir reminded his guests of Tarzan's Swansea roots. I urged him to go home and prepare for government: for a few special people it is never too late. Michael said we should write in our diaries March 21, 2033, as a save-the-date, for the next landmark of his extraordinary career.

One among many reasons I love the man is that, unlike almost all our present politicians, he is not thinking of tomorrow's headlines but instead of the next generation's. That is why he plants trees, never forsakes Europe. I promised not to tell the story of how, after a fishing holiday with us in Sutherland, he skidded his Jaguar off the road, punctured all four tyres and had to go home in an AA trailer.

### Paradise lost

Holidaying in Malaysia we turned off lights obsessively, as we are now accustomed to do at home. Staff, however, promptly turned everything back on again. We taxed the manager: surely his energy costs have soared, same as ours? Absolutely not, he said. Malaysia declined to join western sanctions on Russia, and so buys oil and gas cheaper than a year ago.

He also confided that the film-maker Mike White has approached him to discuss shooting a new series of *The White Lotus* in his paradise. Our friend has not yet watched the two previous series, and we said: view before you commit. Think of your real-life clientele. *White Lotus* is fab TV, but no sane human could wish to holiday anywhere the resorts' fictional guests have been, never mind their staff.



### Learn the ropes

My wife's hairdresser, whom she loves, laments the apparent impossibility of recruiting apprentices. Novices leaving college, he says, expect immediately to be recognised and paid as Formula One stylists. Nobody is willing to wear L-plates. This problem afflicts almost every sector of the economy, collateral damage of staff shortages. The only answer, of course, is to bring on Afghans, Syrians, Ukrainians and everybody else willing to fill humble working roles while our own young massage their wellness.

### Bonds junked

Penny and I have been making black comic attempts to buy premium bonds. After six hours online, an email told me my driving licence was rejected for identification because it was deemed to bear the name of a different person. A phone responder confirmed they do not like the cut of my jib.

This is a familiar sensation, but I was only pleading to give them money. Penny has suffered a more sinister experience: after a mere four hours online, NS&I Sunderland told her, entirely inaccurately, that she already has an account and cannot open another. Since she once suffered an identity fraud scam, she is nervous about who might now be masquerading as her. A money launderer or six-year-old would have completed our purchases in three minutes, but we quit, suffering nervous prostration.

### Fridge cut no ice

Sad to see John Lewis struggling. My heart was won long ago when I consulted one of its veteran salesmen about buying a fridge with a plumbed-in icemaker. "Waste of money," he said succinctly. "Always best just to buy a bag of ice." His truth-telling won the store a customer for life.

### Muck spreading

We cannot urge grandchildren, as we should like, to watch *Clarkson's Farm* and learn useful things about animals and the land, because the cast's dialogue is so obscene. Do they think it shows off their hairy chests? None of the farmers for whom I worked as a schoolboy descended to the language of the Chipping Norton set.

THUNDERER

## Police must identify those charged with criminal offences

**Sean O'Neill**

The police service is in its deepest crisis since Robert Peel established the first force in London almost 200 years ago. The culture of the country's largest force has been exposed as racist, misogynistic and homophobic. And don't think for one moment those problems are confined to the ranks of the Metropolitan Police.

So what is the first policy pronouncement in the wake of the Casey review from the body that exists to set police standards? Did the College of Policing announce root-and-branch reform? Maybe an urgent study of leadership failures? What about a radical overhaul of the disciplinary system that allows bad cops to stay on duty?

Hell no! The college chose this week to unveil a proposal to cloak policing in yet more secrecy. It has suggested that police forces should no longer automatically identify people who are charged with criminal offences.

Present guidance, which says that all defendants "should be named", is set to be changed to "those charged with an offence can be named at the point of charge". This would hand police huge discretion to decide who they name and whose names they hide. There have already been attempts in the past year to keep hidden the names of police officers accused of criminal offences.

The proposal is apparently prompted by concern that data protection laws might be breached in revealing details of charges against individuals. But this is also part of a trend. It reinforces the steady advance of privacy legislation which has already effectively barred the identification by the press of anyone under criminal investigation.

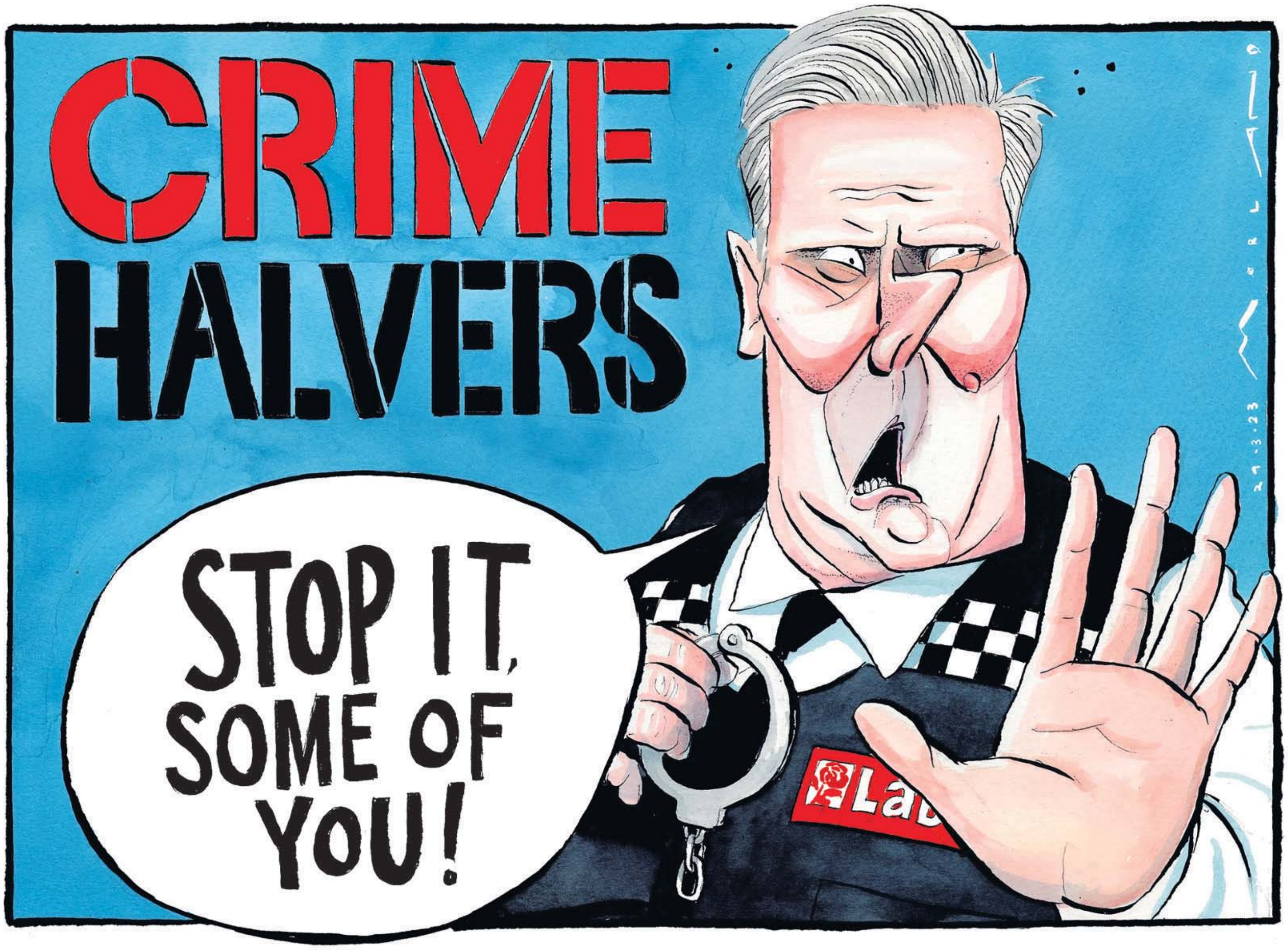
These privacy rules have been drawn up and are being enforced by unelected judges. Now police officers are to be given censorship powers.

All this secrecy amounts to a direct assault on the once cherished principle of open justice that is a cornerstone of Britain's court system. Without names it is impossible for the media to locate court appearances and report on what happens when defendants appear before judges.

That undermines one of the most important public interest functions of a free media: to be the eyes and ears of the public in the courts.

The role of the reporter in court is to represent the public who cannot be there, to hear the prosecution and defence cases, to record the words of the trial judge and to report the verdict of the jury.

It is crucial to the legitimacy of the system that justice is done and seen to be done. The police's embrace of secrecy will undermine not only the freedom of the press but the credibility of the justice system.




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# Indicting Trump is a gift from his enemies

## Whether or not the former president is convicted for paying a porn star, he can claim he is a victim of the establishment

**Gerard Baker**



@GERARDTBAKER

Friends are important in life but the real secret to success in politics is having the right enemies. You may be a deplorable person, morally compromised and prone to all kinds of idiotic misjudgments, but if the people attacking you are truly terrible they'll do more for you than any friend ever could.

Donald Trump seems to have few friends but he has chosen his enemies with remarkable care. Or at least with astonishing good fortune. That should become clear in the coming days when the former president is expected to be indicted in a New York courtroom.

It will be, as a drooling press has noted, an extraordinary moment, even by the surreal standards of modern American politics. Trump would become the first president to be criminally charged in more than a century (not the first ever; Ulysses S Grant was collared in 1872 for speeding, in a horse-drawn carriage). The grand jury — a pre-trial tribunal somewhat like a magistrates' court in England — that is hearing the case is nearing its conclusion and the Manhattan prosecutor, Alvin Bragg, is expected to seek and obtain from it a formal charge against Trump any day now.

Soon afterwards the man who until two years ago was the most powerful in the world will be arraigned in court in lower Manhattan, taking his place in the usual succession of petty larceny, drug-dealing and homicide defendants. Given his status, it's not clear whether Trump will get the full treatment, the "perp walk" and the handcuffs. But it will be still, for his many enemies, a crowning cinematic moment. They have been yearning for this since he first descended the escalator in Trump Tower in June 2015 to announce his run for president.

In fact the only person likely to be more delighted by the spectacle is Trump himself. The case against him is thinner than the strands of orange hair sprayed into place across the man's pate, less plausible than the many fictions on which he has built his career. The charge is so trivial that the whole process merely affirms the loud complaint Trump endlessly bleats: that he is the victim of an establishment that will stop at nothing to destroy him.

The charge he faces is expected to be the falsification of business records relating to payments made to a porn star who said she had an affair with him in 2006. To keep her from going public before the 2016 election, Trump arranged for his attorney, Michael Cohen, to pay her $130,000, then reimbursed him, but billed the expenditures in company accounts as legal fees.

How weak is the case? Let me count the ways. First, the offence is normally under New York law a "misdemeanour", meaning the penalty if found guilty is a fine, not a custodial sentence. To turn it into a felony, Bragg, the district attorney — a progressive zealot who shot to national fame a year ago for a policy of not prosecuting some violent criminals — must prove that the offence was committed in furtherance of a felonious crime.

> The case against him is thinner than the hair plastered over his pate

The flimsy legal theory holding up this creaking edifice is that the hush money represented an in-kind presidential campaign contribution designed to help Trump avoid (another) potentially damaging scandal. Federal election law requires disclosure of such contributions.

But Joe Biden's US justice department has already investigated this allegation and decided there was no case — in part because federal election law doesn't prevent you from using your money to support your own campaign, and in part because proving the payment was made to help a campaign rather than simply to avoid embarrassment is legally tough.

As Jonathan Turley, a leading constitutional law scholar and professor at George Washington University, told me: "What's so bizarre about this is that you would have to establish a crime was committed — which would seem to require the Manhattan prosecutor proving a federal crime that the Department of Justice decided didn't warrant charges."

Second, even the DA's office seems doubtful. His predecessor first investigated the alleged crime years ago and decided not to pursue it. Bragg was himself reluctant initially to prosecute but seems to have been pressured into it by even more zealously progressive lawyers than he.

Third, the case at trial will not exactly be a *To Kill a Mockingbird* exercise in judicial dignity. The main witnesses for the prosecution will be the porn star Stormy Daniels — whose acting credits include, with pleasing symmetry, *Knocked Up* and *Party Down* — and Cohen, who has already pleaded guilty to various charges including lying to law officers.

The irony in all this, and the reason Trump can't believe his luck, is that of the three criminal investigations he faces this is easily the weakest. The other two — a twin inquiry by a special prosecutor into his mishandling of classified government documents and his role in instigating the January 6 riot at the Capitol, and an inquiry by a Georgia prosecutor into his efforts to suborn the authorities there retroactively to flip the election to him in 2020 — are much more serious.

By bringing this case first New York has given him an opportunity to discredit the entire prosecutorial process against him as rigged.

Trump still faces real legal jeopardy. But even this only underscores the fusion of politics and the law that his enemies have achieved. A jury in Manhattan — where he got 12 per cent of the vote in 2020 — is unlikely to be sympathetic. Judges in New York, like district attorneys, are elected and have one eye permanently on their next campaign.

So if he's acquitted, Trump will denounce a corrupt prosecutor. If he's convicted, he'll denounce as corrupt an entire legal system — from prison, with daily ranting updates, while he's running for president again.

Only his best enemies could do this much for him.

# Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be sent to
**letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to
1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF**

## Privileged pensions

Sir, Your leading article "Glass House" (Mar 23) is right that MPs' generous inflation-linked defined benefit pensions, guaranteed by taxpayers, create a "disconnect" with the public, who generally have defined contribution pensions with an individual savings pot and no guarantees. Moreover, the annual taxpayer cost (hidden in footnotes) is more than 40 per cent of salary, much higher than the "official" cost, so MPs' pay and pension is really £120,000 — £84,000 salary and £36,000 pension.

Moving MPs to defined contribution pensions would not only reduce taxpayer costs, it would help MPs to understand constituents' pension worries, and also help to reform other public sector pensions.
**John Ralfe**
Pensions consultant, Ashbourne

Sir, Your leading article rightly highlights the disconnect between the Labour Party's fiscal policies and the privileged position in which their leaders find themselves. Rachel Reeves has for some time made clear that she does not approve of dividend income and intends to tax it more heavily. The reality is that many pensioners who are not particularly well-off depend on this for their livelihood and to supplement their modest state pensions. Those who are fortunate enough to benefit from generous government-funded final-salary schemes might usefully reflect on that.
**Adam Dabrowski**
Cleish, Kinross

## Sunak's tax bill

Sir, That Rishi Sunak is a very wealthy man makes him more fit to be PM than less ("Sunak picks his moment to reveal £5m earnings on tax return", Mar 23). From Tony Blair's speaking engagements to Boris Johnson's flat refurbishment, year after year we have seen former prime ministers milking their position for personal financial gain, which diminishes the standing of the role of the prime minister in public life. Sunak's honestly gained wealth will mean he never has to do that. More importantly, it makes him immune to all forms of corruption and profiteering. Further, that a man who is prepared to sacrifice a life of idleness and luxury for the rest of his days instead undertakes one of the most difficult and demanding jobs in public life speaks volumes for his sense of public service.
**Bob Maddams**
Bognor Regis, W Sussex

## Corrections and clarifications

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# Johnson and the acceptance of responsibility

Sir, Boris Johnson was quick to evoke his role as a leader on Wednesday as justification for attending unsocially distanced events at No 10: he insisted his presence was essential to help to maintain team morale. But surely his leadership skills could and should have been better deployed? From the start of the lockdown he should have made clear to everyone at No 10 that compliance with the rules and guidance by the people who wrote the rules and guidance was of paramount importance for national morale. Friday night drinks and impromptu social gatherings should have been unambiguously banned.

Johnson failed to do this. He instead chose to hide behind others, junior to him, for assurances about subsequent behaviour at Downing Street. That is not leadership.
**Jessica Hughes**
London W14

Sir, Several years ago I was fined for not paying the London congestion charge. I wrote three letters complaining that as a resident of northern England I had no knowledge of the charge and the fine was thus unfair. The final response from the Greater London Authority was signed by the mayor of the time, Boris Johnson. He explained that it was my responsibility to find out the rules and abide by them, and that lack of knowledge was no defence. I accepted this and paid.
**Chris O'Flaherty**
Preston

Sir, Boris Johnson was issued with a fixed penalty notice and paid a fine. He could have challenged the notice in court but he didn't. Having accepted the penalty and therefore his guilt, how could he go on to say that the rules and guidance had been followed at all times?
**Allan Seager**
Ret'd police inspector, Rochdale

Sir, I listened to Boris Johnson asserting the unavoidable and essential nature of raising a glass with others at a staff farewell do, and then I remembered that image of Her Late Majesty's pale, solitary grief, together with that of countless others who were denied an opportunity to bid farewell to a departed loved one.
**William Armiger**
Gloucester

Sir, It was striking that, while proclaiming "Hand on heart, I did not lie to the House", Boris Johnson kept both his hands firmly on the table in front of him.
**Professor Gareth Williams**
Vellow, Glos

Sir, Part of Boris Johnson's self-generated reputation is that of the public school stalwart in adversity. According to this Bullingdon-esque code one abiding sin is to sneak or "peach" on one's fellows. When the headmaster demands the identity of other conspirators, the sturdy reply is "I will not say sir, I will take the beating and not betray others!" In this context his evidence to the privileges committee "Please sir, if I am guilty what about Sunak and the others?" was not the most edifying part of a pretty poor performance.
**Bob Marshall-Andrews KC**
Labour MP for Medway 1997-2010

Sir, What a contrast between the interrogation of Boris Johnson by a parliamentary committee — courteous (if somewhat sceptical) — and the nasty, aggressive interrogation of the CEO of TikTok by Congress.
**Martin Prevezer**
London NW8

## Ofsted inspections

Sir, The first iteration of Ofsted inspections in the 1990s was formed using seconded advisers, head teachers and deputies. We were well trained and went into schools as colleagues, with a focus on constructive criticism and support for school management and staff. As a serving deputy I also learnt much about what good teaching and management looked like from the impressive schools we saw.

Later, working for companies which, by then, were operating as contractors, the system became payment-driven. Inspectors were less willing to take the time needed to discuss the findings and consider the school's context. Professional inspectors do not have the same commitment and there is no opportunity to take the good practice back into the system. Returning to a system of "peer" review would benefit the whole education sector.
**Pam Marley**
London E7

Sir, As the chairman of governors of an inner-city London comprehensive school I must disagree with Richard Cairns that state school heads "live in fear and trepidation" of Ofsted (letter, Mar 22). Before our recent inspection there was a calm confidence and a desire to show our school to best advantage. A major role of governors is to support their head so as to remove any fear and trepidation. Ofsted is not perfect but the alternative — schools not being held to account by an independent authority — is far worse.
**Dr Martin Stephen**
Great Shelford, Cambs

## Lifespan inequality

Sir, Apropos your report "Babies born in rich areas live 12 years longer (Mar 21), disparities in health outcomes at regional and postcode level have been well known for a number of years. As the Health Foundation data show, there is variation in life expectancy between the three Coventry parliamentary constituencies. At University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire we used health inequalities data to spur our clinical teams into action: they developed a tool to help to identify, and give priority to, the poorest, whom our research found often suffer the longest wait for treatment and have worse outcomes as a result. This innovative approach is now being adopted by trusts across the country. Data in the hands of health professionals can be as powerful a force for good as a scalpel is in the hands of a surgeon — we just need to use it.
**Professor Andy Hardy**
CEO, University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust

## Coercive relatives

Sir, As a former GP for some 30 years, my experience, unlike Kate Howard's (letter, Mar 23), is that coercive relatives are often very difficult to spot, and this was in the days when GPs did regular home visits. How much easier for relatives to put pressure on the vulnerable to end their lives these days given the difficulty of access to consultations even by phone? As for cases being assessed by a senior judge, that is a fig leaf that will be stripped away as easily as it is proffered as a "protection" against abuse, should assisted dying ever become law.
**Dr Trevor Stammers**, FRCGP
Epsom, Surrey

## INDECENCY IN PARIS MUSIC HALLS

**FROM THE TIMES** MARCH 24, 1923

Consternation reigns in the music halls of Paris. The French Cabinet has decided to suppress stage performances which offend against public morality, and the Public Prosecutor has already received instructions to take the necessary legal action.

The managers of all the popular music halls protest that their productions cannot possibly be in question. Yet there never was a season when competition was more keen in the devising of spectacles in which feminine nudity is unblushingly exhibited. Eve was scarcely less covered by her fig leaf than some of these modern beauties of the Paris stage with a girdle of imitation brilliants or a few inches of loin-cloth. It is, however, proclaimed that the police regulations have been scrupulously observed and that these women are harmonious and immobile figures taking part in an artistic creation.

It must indeed be admitted that at the larger halls some of the spectacles in which they appear are strikingly artistic in conception and gorgeous in colour. It is suggested, therefore, that the action of the Government is directed rather against the more obscure halls, where, it is said, male performers appear as scantily clad as the women, dances are described as licentious, and dialogue contains sous-entendus obviously obscene. It is, moreover, argued that the figure which is veiled may be, and often is, more offensive and suggestive of licentiousness than the nude. The manager of one music-hall, who declares that he was the last "to dare to adopt the nude" — and is said now to have become more daring than all his competitors — says he is quite prepared to be the first to abandon it.

Spiteful critics of members of the Cabinet suggest that their action has been dictated by pique at the satire of which they are the butt on the music hall stage, and hint that they would be much better employed in suppressing poisonous books, which are widely circulated and have a pernicious influence in the homes of France.

It is announced this afternoon that summonses are first to be issued against a well-known music hall in the Faubourg Montmartre, and another establishment at Levallois-Perret.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

## West End snobbery

Sir, Sir David Hare laments that musicals are strangling the West End (report, Mar 23). As Clive Davis, your marvellous drama critic replies, audiences prefer a song and a dance to a lecture and that "part of the hostility to musicals is old-fashioned snobbery". A polemic is not necessary to convey a message when humour and music do it so much more effectively. In their 1949 musical *South Pacific*, Rodgers and Hammerstein railed against racism in the song *You've Got To Be Carefully Taught*. Likewise, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which satirised Victorian conventions, was labelled by Oscar Wilde as a trivial comedy for serious people. As Davis rightly says, the glorious Bridge production of *Guys and Dolls* is a superior portrait of New York life than Hare's *Straight Line Crazy* so maybe Hare should take things less seriously and lighten up.
**Janice Ketley**
Englefield Green, Surrey

## PM's deal with EU

Sir, Iain Martin seems very eager, and relieved, to tell us that Brexit is now resolved ("Rejoice, the Brexit wars are finally over", Mar 23). As long as Rishi Sunak insists on telling everyone that Northern Ireland now has wonderful economic opportunities as a result of access to the EU single market while declaring that the rest of the UK now has wonderful economic opportunities as a result of being denied such access, it would seem that there are still issues that need to be addressed.
**Graham Davies**
Bogota, Colombia

## Treating dog fleas

Sir, Stephen Richardson's wish to ban pesticides is misjudged (letter, Mar 23). The treatment of pets for fleas and ticks (the latter may transmit Lyme disease) should be undertaken judiciously as required, rather than prophylactically. Neonicotinoids are not found in glyphosate, which is a short-lived herbicide used for vegetation control in regenerative agriculture, ground preparation for tree planting and for removing invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed.
**Rob Yorke**
Abergavenny, Monmouthshire

## Half-baked idea

Sir, You bemoan "undercooked" baguettes ("A World of Pain", leading article, Mar 23). As a 15-year-old, some 30 years ago, I spent a summer with a French family. When I was sent into the boulangerie to buy the daily bread, I was given very specific instructions to ask for "deux baguettes, pas trop cuit, s'il vous plaît" — two baguettes, not too well done. It seems this may not be a new trend after all.
**Sam Routledge**
Wooburn Green, Bucks

## Petard hoisted

Sir, On the topic of the "waiting music" played to telephone callers (letters, Mar 21-23), while waiting for a response from the Housing Association with which I was associated, I was played Louis Armstrong's *We Have All the Time in the World*. This caused a good deal of hilarity (and some embarrassment) at the next board meeting.
**Judy Abbott**
Haywards Heath, W Sussex

## Daily Universal Register

**UK:** Rishi Sunak is due to host Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, for talks. Netanyahu will also meet Suella Braverman, the home secretary.

## Nature notes



How good it's been to get wet again. To feel the rain on your cheeks and drops running down your neck. After England's driest February in 30 years, it has been more than welcome. But is it enough? Given the kind of vegetation growing in the UK, we are only ever a few weeks away from drought, and a healthy water table must be topped up in the winter before things grow. Trees and plants are not the only things requiring damp ground. Returning swallows and house martins need deep puddles to provide mud for their nests. To complete their life cycles, many beetle species, hoverflies and even natterjack toads require winter-made, temporary ponds. JONATHAN TULLOCH

## Birthdays today



**Dame Mary Berry**, *pictured*, cookery writer and broadcaster, *The Great British Bake Off* (2010-16), 88; **Charles Cadogan, Earl Cadogan**, landowner, 86; **Paul Cartledge**, AG Leventis professor of Greek culture, University of Cambridge (2008-14, now emeritus), 76; **Andrew Cayley**, chief inspector, Crown Prosecution Service, 59; **Jessica Chastain**, actress, *Interstellar* (2014), 46; **Annette Court**, chairwoman, Admiral Group, 61; **Sir David Eady**, High Court judge (1997-2013), 80; **Jane Featherstone**, co-founder of Sister Pictures, chief executive, Kudos Film and Television (2011-15), executive producer of *Broadchurch* (2013-17), 54; **Archie Gemmill**, footballer, Scotland (1971-81), 76; **Dylan Hartley**, rugby union player, Northampton Saints (2006-19) and England (2008-18), England's most-capped hooker, 37; **Tommy Hilfiger**, fashion designer, 72; **Michael Jermey**, director of news and current affairs, ITV, 59; **Carol Kaye**, bass guitarist, session musician on an estimated 10,000 recordings, 88; **Kwame Kwei-Armah**, artistic director, Young Vic theatre, London, actor and playwright, 56; **Kelly LeBrock**, actress, *The Woman in Red* (1984), 63; **Benjamin Luxon**, baritone, 86; **Michael McLintock**, chairman, Associated British Foods and Grosvenor Group, 62; **Patrick Malahide**, actor, *Minder* (1979-88), 78; **Dame Bridget Ogilvie**, parasitologist, director, Wellcome Trust (1991-98), 85; **Lord (Herman) Ouseley**, chairman, Commission for Racial Equality (1993-2000), 78; **Sir Grayson Perry**, ceramic artist and TV presenter, *Grayson's Art Club* (2020-22), 63; **Victoria Prentis**, Conservative MP for Banbury, attorney-general, 52; **Jo Shapcott**, poet, *Of Mutability* (2010), 70; **Lord (Alan) Sugar**, entrepreneur and TV personality, *The Apprentice* (since 2005), 76; **Graeme Swann**, cricketer, England (2008-13), 44; **Lynda Thomas**, chief executive, Macmillan Cancer Support (2015-22), 58.

## On this day

In **1972** Edward Heath, then prime minister, said that direct rule would be imposed on Northern Ireland. Willie Whitelaw became the first secretary of state for the province.

## The last word

*"The stones of which the strongest London buildings are made are not more real, or more impossible to be displaced by your hands, than your presence and influence have been to me, there and everywhere, and will be."*
Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations* (1861)

# Show Over

### While Boris Johnson gave an unconvincing performance in front of the privileges committee and led a failed rebellion, Rishi Sunak is racking up political successes

A smiling Rishi Sunak was on the front foot on Wednesday as he played cricket in the Downing Street garden with members of the victorious England T20 world cup team. Across Whitehall in a committee room in Portcullis House, the annexe to the Palace of Westminster, one of his predecessors as prime minister was firmly on the back one.

Not only did Boris Johnson give a far from convincing explanation of his conduct during the parties scandal to the privileges committee that is investigating him for contempt of parliament. In the midst of his evidence, his latest effort to destabilise the government fell flat. Just 20 Conservative colleagues joined his rebellion against Mr Sunak's deal with the European Union over the "Stormont brake", which cleared the Commons with a huge majority. It felt like the end of an era.

During the eight years since he returned to parliament in 2015, not least during his three years in Downing Street, Mr Johnson has provided the country with no end of drama. Yet the evidence suggests that the Conservative Party, and certainly the country, are moving on. The No 10 parties scandal, an egregious example of cynical hypocrisy in government, was rightly a source of national outrage. But it has become a tiresome distraction for a country with so many more pressing issues to worry about. While Mr Johnson was attempting to explain how a drink-fuelled leaving party held in No 10 during one of the Covid lockdowns was essential to running the British state, Mr Sunak had an exhausting list of real challenges to confront.

A brutal war continues to rage on European soil. The economy continues to be hobbled by double-digit inflation, rising interest rates, high government debt and negligible growth. There are record backlogs in the NHS, an explosion in the numbers off work due to mental illness and sickness. There is a crisis in policing, the asylum system is in chaos, courts are overwhelmed and the prisons are full. Tens of thousands of children have disappeared from the school system. Vast investment is needed to repair and upgrade the nation's infrastructure and deliver the transition to green energy.

To Mr Sunak's credit, he shows every sign of facing up to these challenges, calmly, diligently and constructively, in a way that his predecessors appeared incapable. He stabilised the public finances after Liz Truss's calamitous mini-budget, regaining the confidence of the financial markets. He and his chancellor last month delivered a well-received budget that correctly identified and addressed the most pressing supply side challenges facing the economy. He has delivered a better solution than anyone thought possible to the problems caused by Boris Johnson's flawed Northern Ireland protocol, thereby getting Brexit done, and is repairing relations with European neighbours.

Of course, nothing in Mr Johnson's character or career suggests he will give up on his quest for a return to office or cease to try to destabilise Mr Sunak's government. And although the small scale of Wednesday's rebellion could be seen as signalling the demise of the European Research Group faction that has fuelled the Tories' "forever war" over Europe, it would wrong to think that Mr Sunak has assumed dominance over his party. It was striking that 47 Tory backbenchers abstained on that vote, not all of them authorised absences.

But it cannot have escaped the notice of any Conservative MP that out in the country people have had their fill of the Mr Johnson and Ms Truss music hall act. They want competent government based on the national, not party, interest. Mr Sunak shows every sign of providing it. That may not be enough to save the party in an election next year. But politics is not physics. There are no immutable laws. If the Tories are to stand any chance of winning, they need Mr Sunak at the crease scoring runs, and Mr Johnson locked in the pavilion.

# End in Sight?

### The Bank of England may be close to the peak of this interest rate hiking cycle

The Bank of England's decision yesterday to raise the base rate by another quarter of a percentage point to 4.25 per cent became pretty much inevitable after the surprise rise in inflation to 10.4 per cent. There had been speculation earlier in the week that the Bank might choose to pause this week in light of the recent banking turmoil. But not only has that turmoil now largely subsided, with limited impact on bond yields, the Bank risked looking complacent if it failed to react to the latest rise in consumer prices. Its decision inflicts more pain on the 1.3 million people with variable rate mortgages. But for those looking to lock in fixed rates, the more credible the Bank's fight against inflation, the lower those rates will fall.

That said, the arguments for this rate rise were more finely balanced than at any time since the Bank started this cycle of rate hikes in December 2021. After all, the Bank's own February forecasts showed inflation falling below its target of 2 per cent over the next two years. Since then, wholesale energy prices have fallen far lower than expected, while the government has extended the current £2,500 energy price guarantee, which will stop customer bills rising. To the extent that the recent turmoil leads banks to tighten lending standards, this will act as an extra interest rate rise.

Besides, monetary policy works with a lag of at least 18 months. With interest rates having risen from 0.1 per cent to 4.25 per cent in just 15 months, two members of the monetary policy committee argued that it was time to wait and see what the impact of previous rate hikes had been on the economy. The risk is that as more borrowers gradually roll off old low fixed-rate deals, many will be unable to afford the higher rates, leading to a sharp rise in financial distress and an equally sharp contraction in the economy. The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank was a warning of the potential vulnerabilities lurking in the financial system from the unwinding of the ultra-low interest era.

Nonetheless, the Bank was right to plough on as planned, albeit with a smaller rate hike than at each of its previous five meetings. The reality is that not only did inflation unfortunately pick up again in February, defying expectations that it would fall to 9.8 per cent, but the global economy showed signs of picking up too, led by a recovery in China and stronger than expected activity in America. With unemployment in Britain remaining flat, job vacancies still high and wage growth running at 7 per cent, the Bank could not afford to take the risk that increased global demand would drive wages and inflation higher. The reality is that inflation is unlikely to be brought sustainably back to target until vacancies fall.

The good news is that the Bank is now almost certainly close to the peak of this interest rate hiking cycle. The market thinks just one more quarter-point rise later this year will be sufficient. In America, where the Federal Reserve raised interest rates by 0.25 percentage points this week despite inflation having fallen in February to 6 per cent, the market is now even pricing in interest rate cuts of up to 1 per cent this year. What is clear is that the end of this inflationary episode cannot come soon enough. The February rise in inflation here was driven by, among other things, an 18 per cent rise in the price of food. These are costs that bear most heavily on the poorest, a highly regressive tax on incomes. Fairness demands that the Bank do what is necessary to halt it.

# Hero's Send-Off

### A veteran's funeral next week will be standing room only

Flight Sergeant Peter Brown, who died in west London in December aged 96, will be cremated on Wednesday. Although he was well-known and well-liked locally, nonetheless as a private man with no known family, Mr Brown's obsequies were destined to draw only a small number of mourners. Following a campaign by The Sun, however, subsequently endorsed by the prime minister and defence secretary, it is now likely that hundreds will pay their respects. Organisers are worried the venue may be too small.

Mr Brown deserves nothing less than a full house. Born in Jamaica in 1926, he volunteered for the RAF in 1943, flying five missions as a gunner in Lancaster bombers over war-torn Europe. He did not have to serve, yet along with many others from the West Indies, chose to do so. It is estimated that hundreds of "pilots of the Caribbean" served as RAF air crew in the Second World War, while around 16,000 West Indians did duty as RAF ground crew or as soldiers in the army or sailors in the Royal Navy. As one of the last of those veterans, it is especially important that Mr Brown's farewell be properly honoured.

Last month, the funeral of Ronald Gale, 97, another former RAF man, drew over 100 mourners in Ipswich, thanks in part to a social media campaign similar to the one launched on behalf of Mr Brown. For all their much discussed downside, social media platforms are extremely good places for swift appeals in aid of good causes.

As we say goodbye to the last of the "greatest generation", such mobilisations to ensure a suitably sizeable send-off should become the norm. Typically for his vintage, in life Mr Brown was modest to the point of self-effacement about his wartime bravery. All the more reason, therefore, why in death he should be fittingly commemorated.

# World

# Fury on the streets as a million march against Macron

France
Adam Sage Paris

A group of hooded men stood with arms aloft, blocking a fire engine trying to reach a pile of rubbish that had been set ablaze. Behind them police stun grenades echoed off the Paris opera house and palls of smoke mingled with tear gas fired by riot officers as they sought to control the crowds.

"This has gone beyond a demonstration," said Hervé Piètre, a delegate from the French Democratic Confederation of Labour, as flames leapt from a burning bin beside him. "It is an expression of general anger."

An increasingly violent and radical protest movement was emerging against President Macron's unpopular plan to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64, as more than a million people took to the streets across France yesterday to vent their anger at the pension plans, according to government numbers.

In Paris tens of thousands of people took part in a march that began in the Bastille, where the 1789 revolution started. They were joined by hundreds of activists who clashed with the police, attacked shops and restaurants and started fires along the route. More than 170 people were arrested and 149 police officers injured across the country.

Provincial cities witnessed similar scenes. In Bordeaux, which the King is due to visit next week, demonstrators fought with police and set fire to the city hall's ront door. In Lorient, a quiet fishing port in Brittany, activists sought to storm a government building and set fire to the police station.

Gérald Darmanin, the interior minister, denounced the attacks as "unacceptable" and expressed support for the injured police officers.

In Nantes, on the Atlantic coast, activists tried to invade the administrative court, smashing down the front door before being beaten back by the police. There was also violence in Rennes in Brittany, Rouen in Normandy and Bayonne in the southwest, where police used tear gas and water cannon to drive back several dozen left-wing radicals.



The city hall in Bordeaux erupted in flames after an arson attack. The King is due to visit the region next week

Roads, schools, airports, train stations and ports were blocked amid the ninth one-day general strike against Macron's pension reform plan.

Unions raised the pressure on Macron, announcing a tenth day of nationwide strikes and protests on Tuesday during the King's state visit.

The union campaign began in January but has been spiralling into political and social chaos after Macron used executive powers to deprive MPs of a vote on the legislation last week.

"That was a denial of democracy," said Piètre, a striking figure in his orange union jacket amid the groups of young radicals in black hoodies. "That's what has made people so angry."

In a television interview on Wednesday, Macron had expressed determination to drive through his reform, which he sees as vital for a state pension system that would otherwise be running an annual deficit of €13.5 billion by 2030.

Piètre was having none of it. "The government has lied about the need for this reform from the start. First they said it was to generate funds to help the elderly, but that turned out to be a lie. Then they said it would help women, but that was a lie too. Women will have to work three months longer than men because of their reform. Now Macron says his reform is necessary to save the state pension system. But he is lying about that as well."

Chloé Tessier, 33, a riding instructor from Normandy, had travelled to Paris to take part in the march with Arnaud, 61, her father, a builder. "How could my father go on working until 64, carrying heavy loads?" she said. "And do they really think I could be doing my job at 64? It's very demanding, especially as I work with disabled children and I have to look after them and the horses."

Tessier said she hoped not only that Macron would back down, but that the protests would become an "insurrection". She said: "I'd like the government to be toppled." Her father added: "It's about time that those who organise the world for their own benefit and who don't understand the way the rest of us live were brought down a peg or two."

They were speaking on a street corner where the windows of a McDonald's and two newspaper kiosks had been smashed.

"I can't see the protest movement ending," Frédéric Bonnin, 53, a textile designer, said. "I think it'll go on till Macron caves in."



# Netanyahu faces down security chiefs over new law

Israel
Anshel Pfeffer Jerusalem

Binyamin Netanyahu, the prime minister of Israel, said he would not stop pushing ahead with legislation to change the composition of his country's Supreme Court despite mass protests by the public and warnings from his security chiefs.

Yoav Galant, the defence minister, had warned Netanyahu that the deep public discord in Israel, which has brought hundreds of thousands of Israelis on to the streets, was threatening the country's security.

However Galant failed to follow up on his threat to resign if the legislation was not stopped.

In a televised speech made shortly before leaving for his visit to Britain, Netanyahu sounded a conciliatory tone, saying: "I promised to be a prime minister of all Israelis and I will be."

However, he made it clear that he was determined to proceed with "responsible judicial reforms".

The government's "legal reform" plan was presented to the public two and a half months ago by Yariv Levin, the hardline justice minister. The plan includes limiting the Supreme Court's power to veto legislation and to rule against government policies.

The plan has been met with furious protests across Israel, with hundreds of thousands of citizens participating.

Senior business leaders have also warned that the implications for Israel's export-driven economy could be dire and thousands of officers and pilots in the reserve units have signed petitions refusing to "serve a dictatorship". Likud, Netanyahu's political party, is split over the legislation, as are the other parties in his coalition.

Galant is said to have the private support of a number of senior Likud ministers but they have been hesitant to declare their views openly.

However, junior ministers and backbenchers have been vocal in calling for the current legislation to continue.

"We have no mandate from the public to stop the legislation," tweeted Boaz Bismuth, a Likud parliamentarian. "No MK [Knesset member] has a mandate to act against the party's decision."

The ultra-orthodox Shas party, the second-largest party in the coalition, has announced it is siding with Netanyahu but Aryeh Deri, the Shas party leader, is said to have privately supported a compromise with the opposition.

However the Jewish Power party, the far-right coalition partner, said: "The public elected a right-wing government to carry out right-wing policy and we must continue with the legal reform."

Netanyahu is due to arrive in London this morning to meet Rishi Sunak, the prime minister.

Thousands of Israelis living in Britain and members of the Jewish community plan to gather outside Downing Street and the Savoy Hotel where Netanyahu will stay to protest against the judicial overhaul.

The protests have slowed the legislation and, with a week remaining until the winter session ends, the row could overshadow Israel's 75th anniversary celebrations next month.

# Dare to arrest

Marc Bennetts

Russia has warned that any attempt to enforce an International Criminal Court arrest warrant for President Putin would be viewed by the Kremlin as a declaration of war.

Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy head of Russia's national security council, vowed that Moscow would respond immediately with missile attacks.

"Let's imagine — it's clear that this is a situation that will never happen — but nevertheless let's imagine it does. The current head of a nuclear state arrives on the territory of, say, Germany, and is arrested. What is this? A declaration of war against the Russian Federation," Medvedev said.

"In this case, everything we have would fly toward the Bundestag, the

**Fake it till you make it: the Vermeer copies drawing the art crowd**
Page 33



**America's 3D printed rocket takes off for its first space journey**
Page 34





**These fabricated pictures depicting the arrest and detention of Donald Trump, and the reaction of his wife, Melania, were shared on Twitter by Eliot Higgins of the investigative group Bellingcat. The pictures were created using artificial intelligence software developed by Midjourney, a start-up based in San Francisco**



# Trump goes viral in fake images of clash with police

**United States**
**Alistair Dawber** Washington
**Hugh Tomlinson**

Twitter has been flooded with images depicting the arrest of Donald Trump, mugshots taken by the New York police and the anguish of his wife — all of which have yet to happen.

Generated by artificial intelligence, the fabricated, or deepfake, pictures show the former president fighting with and fleeing officers. Another shows his wife, Melania, and his son Donald Trump Jr shouting in protest at the arrest.

On Saturday Trump, 76, posted on social media that he expected to be arrested on Tuesday this week over hush money paid to the former porn star Stormy Daniels, 44, before the 2016 presidential election. She claims she was paid to keep silent over their affair.

An indictment has yet to be issued, with the grand jury hearing evidence in the case going home yesterday. The jury will meet next on Monday. Manhattan's district attorney, Alvin Bragg, who has been investigating the case, has made no public statement on a possible indictment.

Trump is the only person to say that his arrest is going to take place, and has not mentioned it directly since his social media post at the weekend. Since then he has raised millions of dollars for his 2024 presidential campaign from supporters angered by his apparently imminent detention.

Eliot Higgins, founder of the investigative group Bellingcat, tweeted the original deepfakes, which were created using the AI text-to-image generator Midjourney. His original post has been viewed more than five million times.

"The Trump arrest image was really just casually showing both how good and bad Midjourney was at rendering real scenes — like the first image has Trump with three legs and a police belt," Higgins told Associated Press. "I had assumed that people would realise Donald Trump has two legs, not three, but that appears not to have stopped some people passing them off as genuine."

Midjourney's founder, David Holz, said that the latest version of his product had a "much wider stylistic range" and was "more responsive to prompting".

Another Twitter user, O'Keefe Reborn, shared a deepfake he had created of a Trump mugshot.

"Donald Trump has not been taken into custody by the New York City Police Department," the department wrote in an emailed statement in response to the deepfake image.

Trump has denied the encounter with Daniels and any other wrongdoing. Bragg is investigating whether the payments contravened campaign finance law, and for a prosecution would have to show that Trump knew that they were unlawful.

The former president's Republican allies in Congress have also condemned the investigation. The party now controls the House of Representatives and some of his allies hold key positions on important committees.

Jim Jordan, a congressman from Ohio, is chairman of the House judiciary committee and is expected to expand an investigation into Bragg by calling two prosecutors to give evidence to his committee. Mark Pomerantz, a former New York county special assistant district attorney, and Carey Dunne, a former Manhattan special assistant district attorney, resigned from Bragg's Trump investigation last year because they disagreed with Bragg over the conduct of the investigation.

Bragg's office hit back at Republican efforts to intervene on Trump's behalf yesterday, accusing House Republicans of "an unprecedented inquiry into a pending local prosecution". The district attorney's general counsel, Leslie Dubeck, said claims that the investigation of Trump was politically motivated were "unfounded".

**Win or lose, Trump will denounce the justice system, Gerard Baker, page 27**

# Putin and we'll attack, says Medvedev

chancellor's office and so on," he added. He was speaking after Berlin confirmed that it would arrest Putin if he ever set foot in Germany.

Medvedev, a former prime minister who also served as president between 2008 and 2012, was once seen as a relative liberal. Since the start of the war, however, he has emerged as one of the Kremlin's biggest hawks. He has warned that supplies of weapons by western countries to Ukraine are bringing closer "a nuclear apocalypse".

Margarita Simonyan, editor-in-chief of the Kremlin-funded broadcaster RT, said last week that Russia would launch nuclear weapons at any country that arrested Putin. Neither Medvedev nor Simonyan explained how the president would then avoid being killed.

Last week the ICC accused Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova, the Kremlin's top official for children's rights, of being responsible for the forced deportations of Ukrainian children to Russia. The Kremlin said the ruling was meaningless because Russia was not a signatory to the court. However, the ICC's move seems set to limit Putin's foreign trips.

He was expected to visit South Africa in August for a Brics summit with the leaders of Brazil, India, China and South Africa. The trip is now in doubt. South Africa, one of the ICC's 123 member states, has said it is aware of its "legal obligation". South Africa refused to detain President Bashir of Sudan when he visited the country in 2015, despite an ICC request for his arrest on war crimes allegations.

South Africa said yesterday that the issue would be discussed within the government, as well as with Russian officials, to "determine the way forward".

Hungary said yesterday it would not arrest Putin if he entered the country. Gergely Gulyas, chief of staff to Viktor Orban, the prime minister and an ally of Putin, said arresting him would violate the constitution because Hungary had not put into law the statute of the International Criminal Court.

He said of the warrant: "I think these decisions are not the most fortunate because they lead toward escalation and not toward peace."

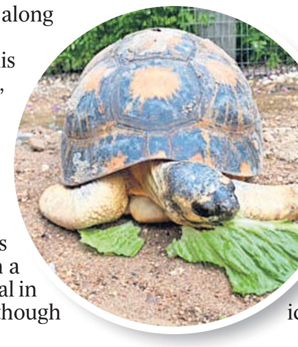
Meanwhile, Bloomberg News reported that Yevgeny Prigozhin, founder of the Wagner mercenary group, will scale back his private army's operations in Ukraine after losing manpower and supplies of ammunition.

# Slowly does it as tortoise finally becomes dad at 90

**Joshua Thurston**

Mr Pickles the tortoise waited 90 years to become a father — and then three offspring came along at once.

Houston Zoo, his home for 36 years, announced the arrival of the hatchlings Dill, Gherkin and Jalapeño last week.



The radiated tortoise and his mate, Mrs Pickles, 53, have been a couple since her arrival in 1996, the zoo said, though perhaps not exclusively. An earlier announcement suggested that Mr Pickles was an experienced parent — but this was later clarified.

"A previous blog stated that Mr Pickles sired a tortoise named Fluke with Mrs Pickles," the correction stated. "Further research indicates Fluke is the offspring of a different male radiated tortoise." The hatchlings are a rare event given that the endangered tortoises typically only live up to 50 years.

# Gandhi sentenced to prison after mocking Modi's surname

**India**
**Penny MacRae** Delhi

Rahul Gandhi, leader of India's opposition Congress party, has been sentenced to two years in prison for mocking Narendra Modi's surname.

The court in Modi's home state of Gujarat found Gandhi guilty of defamation over a disparaging remark he made in 2019 while on the election trail, where political insults are normally rife.

Gandhi, 52, will not go to jail immediately as the court granted him bail for 30 days to file an appeal. He does, however, face the risk of not being able to contest national elections due next year if his conviction is not overturned by a higher court beforehand.

The case against Gandhi dates back to an election rally at which he said: "Why do all these thieves have Modi as their surname: Nirav Modi, Lalit Modi, Narendra Modi?"

Mallikarjun Kharge, president of the Congress party, said that Gandhi would appeal at a higher court and called Modi's government "cowardly and dictatorial".

Nirav Modi is a fugitive diamond tycoon and Lalit Modi a former chief of the Indian Premier League who received a life ban from the Indian cricket board. The two men are not related to the prime minister.

The defamation case was filed by a leader of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Purnesh Modi, who is also no relation, argued that Gandhi's comments defamed what he called "the Modi community". Modi is a common last name in western India. Gandhi, who was present in the courtroom for sentencing, insisted to the court that his statement had only been intended to highlight corruption.

BJP leaders rejoiced over the conviction. Rajnath Singh, the defence minister, said that Gandhi should learn from the judgment that "words are deadlier than weapons".

Some legal experts questioned the verdict, saying that cases could not be brought over references to surnames unless a person could show a direct link to themselves. "If a man says 'all lawyers are thieves', then I, as a lawyer cannot file against him for defamation unless I can show its imputation aimed at me," tweeted the scholar Gautam Bhatia.

Gandhi's sister and senior party figure, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, said: "The entire machinery of the rattled regime is trying to suppress the voice of Rahul Gandhi by any and all means."

Another senior politician, Arvind Kejriwal, the Delhi chief minister and head of the Aam Aadmi (Common Man) Party, accused the BJP of engaging in a "conspiracy to finish the opposition leaders and parties" before next year's election. Kejriwal's former deputy chief minister, Manish Sisodia, is in custody on what his party says are "fabricated" money-laundering accusations.

The court gave Gandhi the maximum sentence under the British colonial-era defamation law, as well as a 15,000 rupee (£148) fine.

# Ten years for poet reciting anti-war verse

**Russia**
**Marc Bennetts**

Within 24 hours of the Russian poet Artyom Kamardin reciting his anti-war verse in central Moscow, more than a dozen masked police officers armed with automatic weapons burst into the flat where he lived with his fiancée. "On the floor!" the officer screamed.

"They immediately pushed me over, dragged me into a room, and began kicking me in the arms and legs. They pointed a gun at my leg and threatened to shoot me," Alexandra Popova, his fiancée, told The Times.

Popova could hear officers savagely beating Kamardin, 32, and the couple's flatmate, Alexander Menyukov, in the next room. "The officers forced [Kamardin] to strip, beat him and made him apologise for his poems on camera," Popova, 29, said. They also sexually assaulted him, she said. "They took photos of him covered in blood on the floor and showed them to me."

Kamardin and other poets had read out their gritty, uncompromising poems on a square near the Kremlin, where dissidents have gathered since the Soviet era. Kamardin recited *Kill me, militiaman!*, the title of which is a reference to the brutal Russian-backed separatists who control territory in eastern Ukraine. He also read a poem urging Russians to dodge the draft.

Footage of the event in September, was posted on social media, prompting demands from hardliners for the Kremlin to punish everyone involved.

Last week Kamardin and two of his fellow poets, Yegor Shtovba and Nikolai Dayneko, were charged with "public calls to commit activities directed against state security". They were the first people to be charged under the law, which was approved as part of a plethora of repressive legislation by President Putin in July. They had already been accused of "inciting hatred" and have been in custody for almost six months. All three face up to a decade in prison.

After the police raid, a video of Kamardin's apology was published on a Telegram channel belonging to Ren TV, a pro-Kremlin television station. It showed Kamardin on his knees, his hands handcuffed behind his back and bruises on his face. He could barely get his words out. Although he was taken to hospital after his beating, investigators ruled that the police had not mistreated him. Kamardin was also sent to an infamous psychiatric hospital in Moscow for a month, an echo of the punitive psychiatry that the Soviet authorities used to silence dissidents.

Although Putin's regime has spent two decades trying to destroy the opposition, the Kremlin has now increased political repression to levels not seen since the darkest days of the Soviet era. Opposition figures such as Ilya Yashin have been sentenced to up to eight and a half years in prison for online criticism of the war. In St Petersburg, Alexandra Skochilenko, 31, an artist, faces ten years in prison on charges of replacing price tags in supermarkets with anti-war messages.

As police pounded at their door in September, Kamardin turned to Popova and began calmly reciting verse by Valery Bryusov, a Russian poet from the early 20th century: "You must be as proud as a banner, you must be as sharp as a sword . . . "

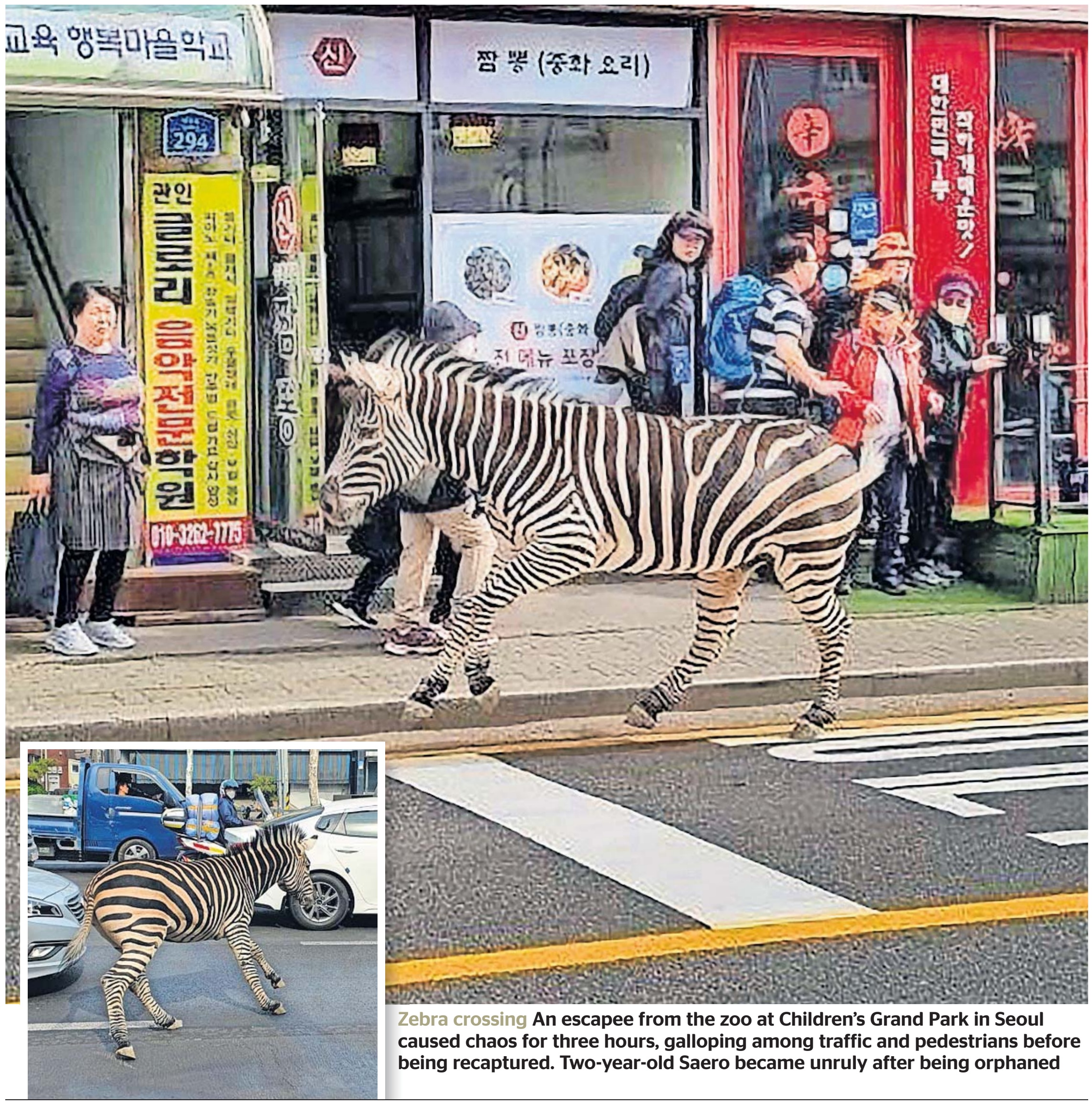
Popova said: "On one hand, it was very romantic, but on the other hand it was terrifying. I remember thinking, 'They only read poems in situations like this in films.'"

The trial is expected to start at the end of next month but there is almost no chance that Kamardin and his fellow poets will be found not guilty: fewer than 1 per cent of defendants in Russian criminal cases are acquitted.

"There is no way to prove his innocence or even punish those who tortured him," Popova said. "I could never have imagined people could be sent to prison for ten years for reciting poetry."

**Power of words**

**Kill me, militiaman!**
**by Artyom Kamardin**
Kill me, militiaman!
The cops will buy you a gun with
public funds.
Kill me, militiaman!
Become a punishing hand.
I'm not human, see. Shit flows in my
veins!
Kill me, militiaman!
Be the scourge of God!
After all, I'm not a patriot . . . maybe I
just never fit in.
Why do you need a reason? F*** it!
You don't need one!
Kill me, militiaman! . . .
*Excerpt translated by Marc Bennetts*




**Zebra crossing** An escapee from the zoo at Children's Grand Park in Seoul caused chaos for three hours, galloping among traffic and pedestrians before being recaptured. Two-year-old Saero became unruly after being orphaned

# 'Military tech smuggler' on the run

**Italy**
**Tom Kington** Rome

A Russian businessman accused of smuggling American military technology to Moscow has escaped from house arrest in Italy a day after he learnt he was due to be extradited to the US.

Artem Uss, 40, snapped the electronic ankle tag he was wearing at a house near Milan. By the time the police, alerted by an alarm, arrived to check his whereabouts, Uss had disappeared.

The son of the governor of the Siberian province of Krasnoyarsk, Uss was arrested on an international warrant issued by the New York district attorney when he flew to Italy on October 17.

He is accused of shipping military technology bought from US companies to Russian buyers, who used it in the war in Ukraine, as well as bank fraud and shipping oil from Venezuela to Russia oligarchs in breach of sanctions.

Risking a 30-year jail sentence in the US, Uss was held under house arrest while a court in Milan considered the extradition request.

On Tuesday the court said it agreed to the request relating to smuggling oil, but not for military technology smuggling, citing a lack of evidence.

In court, Uss's lawyer said the US wanted the Russian handed over so he could be traded with Moscow to obtain the release of Paul Whelan, an American businessman sentenced to 16 years in a Russian prison in 2020.



**Artem Uss broke his ankle tag just after a ruling on US extradition**

Uss's arrest in October was condemned by Russia, with Dimitry Peskov, the Kremlin spokesman, commenting at the time: "Russian diplomatic missions will do their best to protect the interests of Uss." Days later Russia put his name on its own wanted list, accusing him of money laundering, in a suspected attempt to extradite him back to Russia and prevent him being dispatched to the US.

On Wednesday, a day after the Milan court announced he could be flown to America, Uss's ankle bracelet issued an "evasion alarm" when it was broken, shortly after the police had checked the house. When officers returned they found the door closed and the television on inside, but no sign of Uss.

"Intensive investigations are under way to find him," the police said.

Italian media reports suggested Uss may have tried to flee Italy on a private jet from Linate airportin Milan, possibly with the support of Russian agents.

The incident will prove embarrassing for Giorgia Meloni, the prime minister, who offered full support to Ukraine despite the pro-Russian leanings of her coalition partners, Silvio Berlusconi and Matteo Salvini.

# Vermeers are not as they appear

ALAMY; YALE JOEL/THE LIFE PICTURE COLLECTION/GETTY IMAGES; ATELIER BINDER/ULLSTEIN BILD/GETTY IMAGES

Fakes in the style of the 17th-century master are drawing the art crowd, reports **Bruno Waterfield**









**Christ and the Woman Taken in Adultery, attributed to Vermeer, who painted Girl with a Pearl Earring, top right, was given by Han van Meegeren, left, to Hermann Goering, right, with his wife**

Amsterdam has had Johannes Vermeer fever for six weeks since its national Rijksmuseum opened the largest exhibition yet of the Dutch master's work.

But two new small exhibitions elsewhere in the Netherlands illustrate — through historic fakes — how an obsession with the 17th-century artist destroyed reputations and fed the fascination with the painter of *Girl with a Pearl Earring*.

They tell the story of a web of deceit and forgery that sucked in Hermann Göring, the second most senior Nazi, during the Second World War.

In the 1930s interest in Vermeer was unprecedented, and many in the art world were convinced there must be more of his works to be found, especially from the early baroque period. His oeuvre is estimated at about only 35 works — 28 of which went on display at the Rijksmuseum on February 10.

About two dozen of his finished paintings are thought to be lost, including much sought-after works attributed to him, such as a version of Caravaggio's *The Supper at Emmaus,* depicting the resurrected Christ revealing himself to two of his disciples.

In 1937 Dirk Hannema, the director of Rotterdam's Museum Boijmans, purportedly discovered Vermeer's *The Supper at Emmaus*, sealing his stellar reputation. It was bought for the colossal price of 520,000 guilders, worth about €5 million today.

The painting became the centrepiece of a notable Hannema exhibition: *Four Centuries of Masterpieces 1400-1800*, which was opened by Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands in 1938 amid similar levels of hype to the present exhibition at the Rijksmuseum.

Abraham Bredius, the foremost art collector and curator of the day, described the work as "one of the most beautiful that the painting of the [Dutch] Golden Age had produced".

Shortly afterwards Europe was plunged into the chaos of war and Nazi occupation, and five more unknown "Vermeers" came on the market.

In 1943 the Rijksmuseum purchased *The Washing of the Foot* for 1.3 million guilders, squirrelling the new acquisition away in a bomb-proof cellar.

Immediately after the war, liberating American troops came across the collection of Reich Marshal Goering, Hitler's second-in-command, hidden in an Austrian salt mine away from looters.

Stashed with other rare or priceless works was a painting, *Christ and the Woman Taken in Adultery*, thought by Goering to be an identified Vermeer. But the work led the Allies to the doorstep of a Dutch forger, Han van Meegeren, who was living in luxury in Amsterdam after dealing the painting to Goering.

Van Meegeren, who had traded the picture for 137 paintings in Goering's collection, worth some 1.65 million guilders, faced a long prison sentence or even the death penalty for having collaborated with the Nazis.

To avoid the conviction the artist confessed to being a forger, even painting a new "Vermeer", *Christ in the Temple*, in captivity and under supervision to prove his technique. He was sentenced to a year in prison — and hailed as a folk hero for conning the Nazis — but died of a heart attack aged 58 before serving any time in jail. His confession set off a landmine under the complacent world of Dutch art experts and destroyed reputations such as that of Hannema, who fled to his castle, Nijenhuis, until his death in 1984.

"They saw what they wanted to see," Dr Gregor Weber, head of fine arts at the Rijksmuseum, told Amsterdam's Het Parool newspaper. "Art historians have always assumed that Vermeer must have made several paintings with biblical scenes — after all, he had already painted a biblical scene in his youth [*Christ in the House of Martha and Mary*]. Han van Meegeren fulfilled that need by painting — with *The Supper at Emmaus* — exactly what they thought Vermeer had painted."

Throughout the rest of his life Hannema continued to insist that seven of his private paintings were Vermeers, amid widespread ridicule.

Van Meegeren's *Supper* goes on display at Museum Paul Tétar van Elven in Delft on May 7. The forgery that took in Goering, *Christ and the Woman Taken in Adultery*, and other paintings owned by Hannema, form an exhibition: *Searching for Vermeer*, until June 11 at the Kasteel het Nijenhuis in Heino.

Van Meegeren still haunts the art world, especially at a time of renewed interest in Vermeer. "It makes you careful," Weber said. "That you constantly check whether your view is still clear and your frameworks are still correct."

Some paintings attributed to Vermeer remain in dispute. The Rijksmuseum, which has *Girl with a Flute* on display, insists it is by the Dutch master, whereas the National Gallery in Washington DC, which owns the painting, does not.

# Prison rugby team kicked out after failing drug tests

**Tom Kington**

A Italian prison rugby team's chances of winning silverware this season have been hit after 13 players in the 27-strong squad failed a drug test.

The long list of positive urine tests was racked up by the La Drola team formed at Turin's Lorusso e Cutugno jail in 2011 in an attempt to help prisoners rediscover sporting values and teach them teamwork and fair play.

"This is bad news for the team given that the players all signed a pact not to take drugs," Walter Rista, the club president and former Italian national rugby player, said.

The team, which performs a "jailbird Haka" before matches, plays in Italy's fourth division. All games are played at home on the prison's pitch.

Romano Sirotto, La Drola's sporting director, said the players who failed the drug test would probably be expelled from the team.

"If we only have 14 players left it is also likely we will have to withdraw from the league," he added.

# Venice cracks down on Airbnb tourists

**Italy**

**Tom Kington** Rome

The mayor of Venice has confirmed plans to curtail Airbnb rentals in the city to stop it being crushed by tourism.

Luigi Brugnaro said he was determined to discourage homeowners from letting their properties to visitors for more than 120 days a year.

"We want to stop the city and its lagoon becoming places for tourists only. We won't allow that," Brugnaro told the Italian paper Quotidiano Nazionale.

As fears of Covid subside and tourists return to Venice, the city's population has fallen below 50,000 from a historic high of more than 150,000 as existing residents rent out their homes and leave, and arrivals are priced out.

Brugnaro plans to charge tourists an entry fee and hopes that by limiting rentals to four months of the year, he can stem the tide of apartments being turned into hotel rooms.

An Airbnb spokesman said the majority of Venetians renting to tourists continued to live in their homes, and that 40 per cent claimed this rental income was what enabled them to stay.

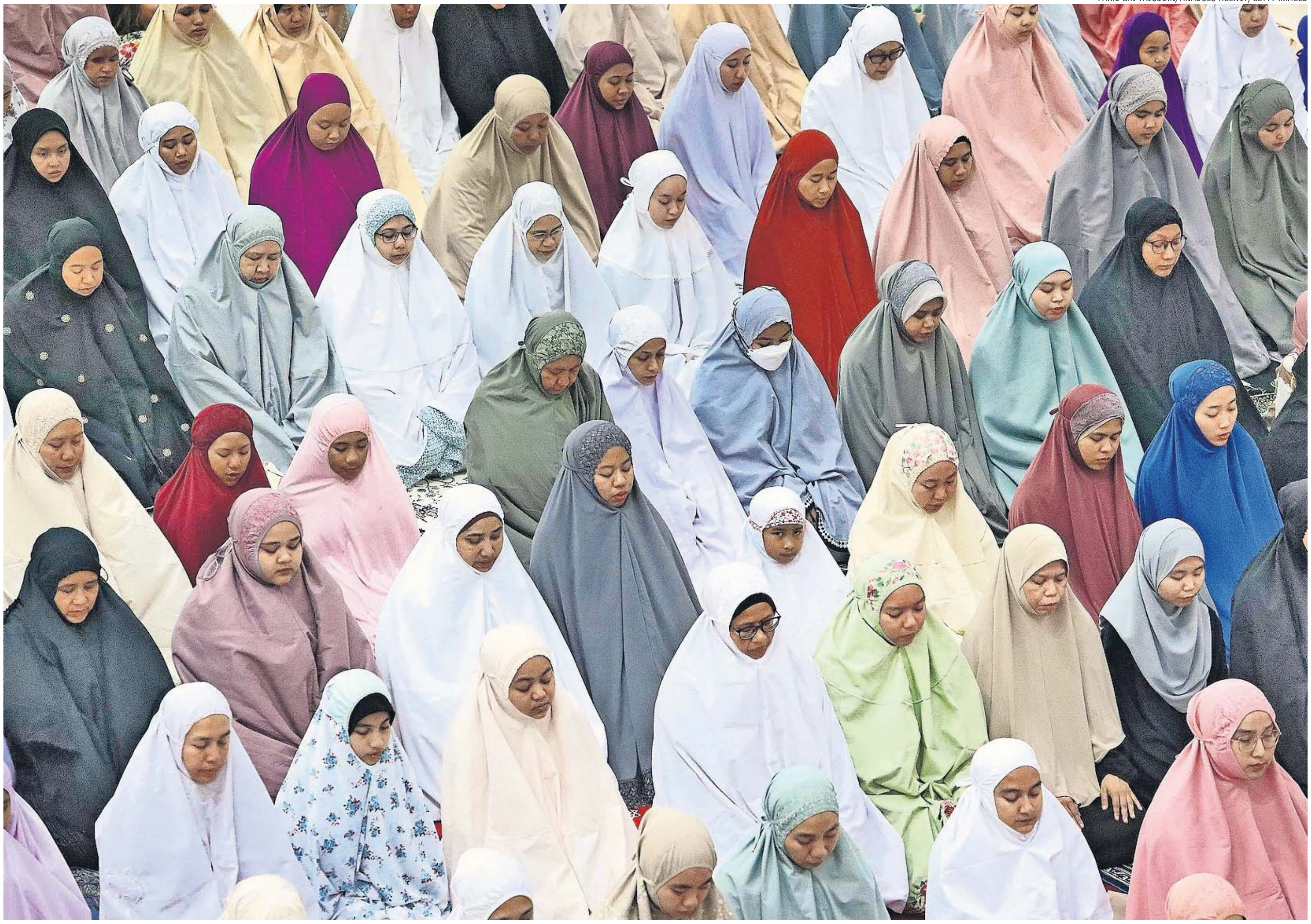
He added: "We welcome regulation and have put forward proposals for clear and simple national rules that support everyday families and clamp down on speculators that drive housing and overtourism concerns."

Italy has not introduced limits on rentals. Paris has a 120-day limit on rentals per year, London 90 days and Amsterdam 30 days.

Last year Italy's national government passed a law allowing Venice to take action, but the city is still formulating rules to make them legally sound, Simone Venturini, the tourism chief, said.

"We expect legal challenges — if it's a rule applying to one city it will be more vulnerable to court cases. Italy is like that," he said. "We would have been better off with a law that applied nationally."

FARID BIN TAJUDDIN/ANADOLU AGENCY/GETTY IMAGES



**Holy month** Prayers on the first night of Ramadan at the Tuanku Mizan, or Iron Mosque, in Putrajaya, Malaysia. This is followed by 30 days of daylight fasting

# World's first 3D printed rocket joins the space race

**United States**
**Jacqui Goddard** Miami

He promised to disrupt 60 years of aerospace engineering, scraped together the funding to do it and built a company that he insisted would reach for the stars with "wonder, audacity, relentlessness and humanity".

Yesterday, seven years after co-founding Relativity Space in a small rented office in Seattle, Tim Ellis, 32, watched as his Terran 1 — the world's first 3D-printed rocket — took its maiden flight from Florida.

Following the launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Ellis said: "I told myself when I founded Relativity Space that my first launch viewing would be our own rocket as motivation to make it there — and here we are. What a sight to behold, feel and hear — indescribably awe inspiring."

In aerospace terms the test flight qualified as a "successful failure" as Terran 1 fell short of reaching orbit. However, it lifted flawlessly off the launchpad and made it safely through Max Q, the most dangerous and turbulent point in ascent, when dynamic forces are at their greatest and structural integrity faces the ultimate test.

As the main engines cut out and the rocket's first stage separated and dropped away, staff whooped and shrieked in celebration before a problem set in with the second stage, terminating its ascent.

Relativity Space declared the mission a "huge win, with many historic firsts". Spaceflight industry leaders, including



**Relativity Space has created Terran 1 almost entirely from 3D-printed parts**

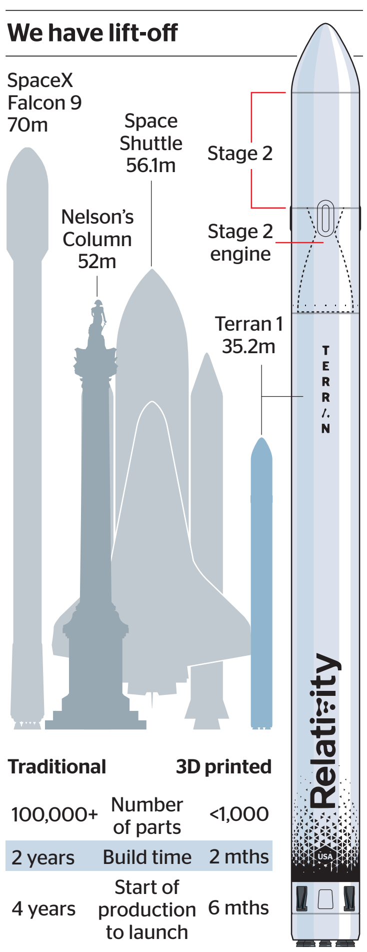
Jeff Bezos, the founder of Blue Origin, passed on their congratulations.

Setting out expectations before the launch, Ellis had said: "The key inflection in my mind is surpassing Max Q. We have already proven on the ground what we hope to prove in-flight — that when dynamic pressures and stresses on the vehicle are highest, 3D structures can withstand these forces.

"We already effectively did this in ground testing, pushing and prodding well above this max stress successfully but in-flight is, of course, the most visceral proof."

Ellis founded Relativity with Jordan Noone, a fellow rocket engineer and inventor. Their vision, like that of Elon Musk, the founder of SpaceX, is of accelerating humanity's progress towards becoming a multiplanetary species and sending private rockets to Mars.

Adopting even more off-the-wall thinking than Musk, Ellis and Noone set out to simplify and speed the manufacturing process by combining 3D printing techniques, artificial intelligence and autonomous robots to build their vehicles. Their rockets are designed by computer and shaped by the world's largest 3D metal printers — known as Stargate and patented by the company — that layer line after line of metal alloy to build rockets in 60 days.




Needing funding from the outset, Ellis and Noone emailed Mark Cuban, the billionaire investor who appears on Shark Tank — the American franchise of Dragons' Den, the BBC show — by guessing at 20 possible iterations of his personal email address. They struck gold when Cuban replied with a pledge of $500,000 in start-up money in 2016.

Since then, other investors and contracts with customers such as OneWeb, the satellite company, have sent the value of Relativity Space above $4 billion before Terran 1 even launched. It now has close to 1,000 employees.

Noone stepped down as chief technology adviser in 2020 to found Embedded Adventures, the electronics manufacturer, but remains an executive adviser at Relativity Space.

Ellis, who worked for two years at Blue Origin between leaving college and starting his company, tweeted before Terran's launch that Relativity's journey started "truly from scratch".

"We had to rally and scrape together every ounce of funding, team, facilities and technology starting from absolutely nothing," he said.

"I'm incredibly proud of our team and the people who believed in me against all odds to get here."

# Porsche chief divorces wife 'because she has dementia'

**Germany**
**David Crossland** Berlin

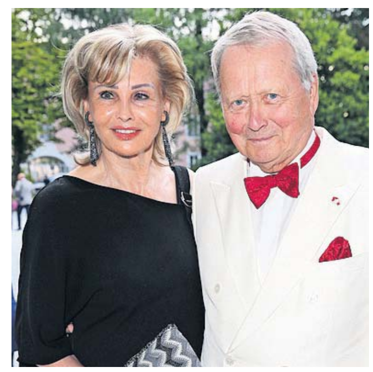
Wolfgang Porsche, the 79-year-old doyen of the sports car dynasty, has raised eyebrows by divorcing his wife, who has dementia, amid German media reports that he is in a relationship with the Aga Khan's ex-wife.

A spokesman for the company confirmed this week that Porsche was suing for divorce from Claudia, 74, a former teacher he married in 2019. They had been together since 2007.

Bild, the tabloid newspaper, reported that Claudia had been suffering from a "dementia-like illness" for the past two years that had led to a change in her character. Citing unnamed sources close to the family, Bild said that this had made it impossible for the Porsches to live together as a married couple. The newspaper said Claudia was living near her daughter with around-the-clock care from family members and professional carers.

Bild said that Porsche was being supported by Gabriele Prinzessin zu Leiningen, 59, a close friend whom he had known for the past 25 years. It said a "tender shoot of affection and deep attachment" had formed between the two in recent months.

Gabriele, born Gabriele Renate Homey, became a princess when she



**Claudia and Wolfgang Porsche became a couple in 2007 and married in 2019**

married into the German nobility. She is reported to have received £50 million in her divorce from the Aga Khan, the billionaire Muslim spiritual leader, in 2014 after a ten-year legal battle.

Porsche's grandfather, Ferdinand, designed the Volkswagen Beetle, while his older brother, also named Ferdinand designed the Porsche 911.

Porsche SE, the Porsche family's holding company, also holds more than 50 per cent of the voting rights at Volkswagen. Wolfgang Porsche plans to seek re-election to the supervisory board at Volkswagen in May despite exceeding an internal company age limit.

The company did not reply to requests for further comment yesterday.

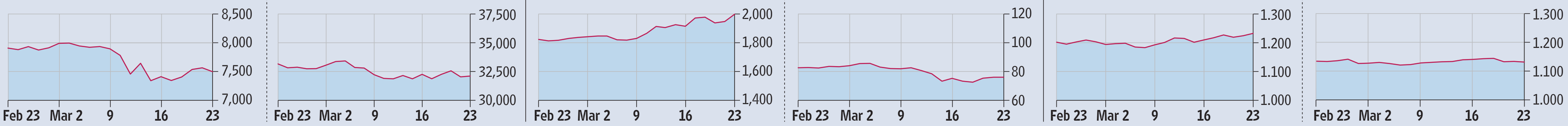
The divorce proceedings have led to Wolfgang Porsche's actions being compared with the devotion of Corinna Schumacher to her husband, Michael, the Formula One racing champion who suffered a brain injury in a skiing accident in 2013.

"Can one leave the sick partner for a new love?" Bild asked yesterday. But Patricia Riekel, the former editor-in-chief of Bunte, the German society magazine, defended Porsche. She wrote: "I believe that it takes great courage and a lot of honesty to make a decision for one's own life in this situation. To go against all social conventions."

# Business

**WORLD MARKETS** (Change on the day) | **COMMODITIES** | **CURRENCIES**

| FTSE 100 | Dow Jones | Gold | Brent crude (6pm) | £/$ | £/€ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7,499.60 (-67.24) ▼ | 32,105.25 (+75.14) ▲ | $1,999.47 (+40.75) ▲ | $75.98 (-0.01) ▼ | $1.2323 (+0.0081) ▲ | €1.1311 (-0.0011) ▼ |




# Construction companies fined £60m for rigging demolition bids

**Tom Howard**

Ten construction firms have been fined almost £60 million after the competition regulator found that they had colluded to rip off customers by rigging bids for a number of demolition contracts.

The Competition and Markets Authority said that, through "illegal cartel agreements", the contractors agreed to submit bids for various contracts which had been priced to lose the tender.

The practice, known as "cover bidding", meant that customers were deceived into thinking that the winning bids were competitive, "when that was not the case". As a result, customers might have paid more than they should have or received an inferior service.

In total, the rigging conduct related to 19 contracts for demolition and asbestos removal worth more than £150 million. This included works carried out for Selfridges, Oxford University and the Metropolitan Police.

The ten firms named by the competition authority were: Brown and Mason; Cantillon; Clifford Devlin; DSM; Erith; JF Hunt; Keltbray; McGee; Scudder; and Squibb. They received fines totalling £59.3 million.

"[The] significant fines show that the CMA continues to crack down on illegal cartel behaviour," Michael Grenfell, the CMA's executive director for enforcement, said. "It should serve as a clear warning: the CMA will not tolerate unlawful conduct which weakens competition and keeps prices up at the expense of businesses and taxpayers."

The competition regulator opened its investigation in March 2019, since when it has turned up unannounced at 15 business premises, interviewed 35 people and served dozens of notices requiring access to information. Its officers have sifted through hundreds of emails, text messages and financial records.

Eight of the companies admitted their involvement in the cartel activity, which meant they received reduced fines. Erith was one of the two which did not — along with Squibb — and was ordered to pay a penalty of £17.6 million, the most of any of the firms.

Rona Bar-Isaac, a competition lawyer

Continued on page 38

# Accenture plans to axe 19,000 staff

## Rising fears for state of the global economy

**Callum Jones**
US Business Correspondent

Accenture has announced plans to cut 19,000 jobs, about 2.5 per cent of its workforce, as corporate clients grow increasingly cautious about the strength of the global economy.

The business, one of the world's biggest consultancy groups, follows others in the sector in implementing sweeping layoffs after lowering its annual forecast of sales and profits.

McKinsey is cutting up to 2,000 jobs in its 45,000 workforce, while KPMG is shedding almost 700 posts in its US advisory business and about 200 in Australia — about 2 per cent of its total in each country.

Only 16 months ago Accenture pledged to create 3,000 tech jobs in the UK, half of them outside of London, over three years. A spokesman for Accenture said this commitment still stood.

The firm, which has 738,000 employees, embarked on a recruitment spree as it enjoyed robust demand for tech advice from large companies. In three years its workforce has grown by about 229,000 people.

Accenture estimates that the planned job reductions will cost a total of $1.5 billion this year and next. It is braced to spend $1.2 billion on severance payouts and $300 million on the "consolidation of office space".

Accenture said: "While we continue to hire, especially to support our strategic growth priorities, during the second quarter of fiscal 2023, we initiated actions to streamline our operations and transform our non-billable corporate functions to reduce costs."

The job cuts will take place over the next 18 months, it said, stressing that more than half of the employees who depart will be working in non-billable corporate roles.

Shares in Accenture rose strongly after the announcement and closed up 7.3 per cent, or $18.39, at $271.66 in New York last night, valuing the firm at $171.2 billion.

Julie Sweet, Accenture's chief executive, said: "We are also taking steps to lower our costs in fiscal year 2024 and beyond, while continuing to invest in our business and our people to capture the significant growth opportunities ahead."

Accenture, based in Dublin, started as the technology consulting arm of the accountancy firm Arthur Andersen in the 1950s. Today it has more than 9,000 clients across the world. The group listed in 2001 and has a market value of $190 billion.

The company has reduced its projected annual revenue growth to between 8 and 10 per cent, down from a previous forecast of up to 11 per cent. It has also downgraded its profit guidance.

It said that total revenue rose 5 per cent to $15.8 billion in the three months to February 28, its second quarter. Net income fell 7 per cent to $1.5 billion.

Sweet said: "Our strong financial results this quarter again demonstrate that our ability to bring together industry, functional and technology expertise as well as managed services, continues to differentiate us with our clients."

TASOS KATOPODIS/GETTY IMAGES




**Focus group** Shou Zi Chew, the chief executive of TikTok, came under intense scrutiny at a hearing in Washington Page 37

# Block slides after short-seller report

**Helen Cahill, Callum Jones**

Jack Dorsey's Block, the online payments business, has come under attack from the short-seller whose allegations knocked billions of dollars from the valuation of India's Adani Group.

Shares in Block tumbled after Hindenburg Research accused the group of exaggerating user numbers and facilitating fraud as part of a "Wild West" approach to compliance.

Block dismissed Hindenburg's 17,000-word report as "factually inaccurate and misleading" and vowed to explore legal action.

Hindenburg's short position in Block follows its campaign against Adani Group, which triggered a $100 billion rout for the Indian conglomerate. In 2020 the New York-based firm made an attack on Nikola, an electric truck maker, whose founder Trevor Milton was convicted of fraud last autumn.

Block, formerly known as Square, is based in San Francisco, California. It was founded in 2009 by Dorsey, a co-founder of Twitter, and Jim McKelvey. Dorsey, 46, serves as its chairman and "block head".

In a dossier published on its website, Hindenburg alleged that Block had "wildly overstated" usage of its Cash App payment service. It claimed that "former employees" estimated that between 40 and 75 per cent of users they reviewed were fake, involved in fraud, or additional accounts tied to a single user.

Shares in Block dropped by 14.8 per cent, or $10.76, to $61.89 in New York.

Block said it intends to work with the Securities and Exchange Commission to "explore legal action against Hindenburg Research for the factually inaccurate and misleading report".

It added: "We have reviewed the full report in the context of our own data and believe it's designed to deceive and confuse investors. We are a highly regulated public company with regular disclosures, and are confident in our products, reporting, compliance programs and controls."

Founded in 2017, Hindenburg is a forensic financial research firm. Short-sellers bet against companies by borrowing their shares to sell at the market price, in the hope they can turn a profit by buying them back for less later.

## Need to know

1 Households face further hits to their income at the end of the month as mortgage costs rise, government cost of living payments end and the average council tax bill exceeds £2,000 for the first time. More than a million homeowners with variable rate mortgages will spend hundreds of pounds more a year on repayments after an eleventh consecutive interest rate rise by the Bank of England took the cost of borrowing to 4.25 per cent. Page 1

2 The scandal surrounding taxpayers' money lost to pandemic fraudsters has deepened as it emerged that the government has recovered only 1 per cent of grant money wrongly paid out to companies during the Covid-19 crisis. The National Audit Office said that of the £1.1billion of state business grants lost to fraud or error, only £11.4 million had been recovered. Page 1

3 Energy companies have received more than half a billion pounds from consumers after "manipulating" the electricity system to demand higher prices for generating power, according to new analysis. Page 2

4 Accenture, one of the world's biggest consultancy groups, has announced plans to cut 19,000 jobs, about 2.5 per cent of its workforce, as corporate clients grow increasingly cautious about the strength of the global economy. Page 35

5 Ten construction firms have been fined almost £60 million after the Competition and Markets Authority found that they had colluded to rip off customers by rigging bids for a number of demolition contracts. Page 35

6 Jack Dorsey's Block, the online payments business, has come under attack from the short-seller whose allegations knocked billions of dollars from the valuation of India's Adani Group. Shares in Block tumbled after Hindenburg Research accused the group of exaggerating user numbers, facilitating fraud and embracing criminality. Page 35

7 The delisting of Aveva, the industrial software group, from the London Stock Exchange through the recent £10 billion takeover by France's Schneider Electric has been a "breath of fresh air", one of its most senior executives has said, amid unease about the appeal of the UK market to tech companies.

8 Investors have increased bets on the Bank of England having carried out its final interest rate rise amid expectations of rapidly falling inflation and fears over financial stability. Page 38

9 The income gap between poorer and wealthier households narrowed during the pandemic but that trend is unlikely to continue, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, a leading think tank. Page 39

10 Amigo is to shut itself down and financially wipe out its shareholders after the troubled sub-prime lender failed to conduct up investor support for a last-ditch £45 million fundraising. Pages 40-41

# Delisting has been 'breath of fresh air' for Aveva

THE TIMES | THE SUNDAY TIMES

**Tech Summit**

**Alex Ralph**
Chief Business Correspondent

The delisting of Aveva from the London Stock Exchange through the recent £10 billion takeover by France's Schneider Electric has been a "breath of fresh air", one of its most senior executives has said, amid unease about the appeal of the UK market to tech companies.

The industrial software group was acquired last year, dealing a blow to the LSE's credibility as home to world-beating technology companies and depleting the FTSE 100.

The deal coincided with Avast, the listed cybersecurity business, being bought by NortonLifeLock of the US and Ascential, the information and events group, announcing plans to spin off its digital arm into a standalone company listed in New York.

More recently a number of large UK public companies have been looking at the New York stock market, increasing concerns about the status of London to attract big tech companies.

Arm, the Cambridge-based chip designer, said this month that it would float in the US and the boss of Oxford Nanopore Technologies, floated on the London Stock Exchange 18 months ago, this week suggested that the listing is not "irreversible" amid a slump in its share price.

At The Times Tech Summit yesterday, Andrew McCloskey, chief technology officer and executive vice-president of R&D at Aveva, said the company had been unshackled by delisting. "It was really important our investors understood what we did, otherwise the stock price didn't grow," he said. "But now with Schneider, we have one stakeholder versus all those investors."

Aveva is one of Britain's oldest technology companies and was spun out of Cambridge University in the 1960s. It develops purpose-built software for some of the most complex structures in the world, including nuclear power plants, oilrigs and factories.

The takeover was formally approved by a court in January and increased the control of Schneider, which had owned almost 60 per cent of Aveva since 2017.

Despite the takeover, McCloskey said its independence remained intact. "They leave you alone. They want it to be private. So the Aveva headquarters are still in London. We're here and they'll leave us here. But besides that independence, they're huge, huge supporters of anything environmental, social and governance-related … So I can't tell you what a breath of fresh air it is to be under the Schneider umbrella and the independence we still have."

McCloskey praised the "very, very smart financial people" in the City tracking public companies, but said: "The challenge is you'd better make sure you're highly accurate with your quarter-to-quarter forecasts. If you have a small deviation, there's a big explanation that you have to do or your stock price goes down."

Michelle Donelan, secretary of state for science, innovation and technology, said: "Our inward investment is the highest in Europe in the tech sector. It's projected to be over £31 billion by 2025."



**Andrew McCloskey said Aveva had kept its independence in private ownership**



**Meta's Derya Matras, above, said regulators must help set rules for the metaverse.**

# Metaverse 'needs agreed regulation' from the start

**Alex Ralph**

Regulators must not play "catch-up" with the tech industry in the fast-moving development of the metaverse, a senior Meta executive has warned, after years of run-ins over social media regulation.

Derya Matras, vice-president for the Middle East, Africa and Turkey at Meta, the owner of Facebook and Instagram, and soon to lead it in northern Europe, said the most important concern for the metaverse industry was doing it "responsibly and safely".

Speaking at The Times Tech Summit, she said: "In the [earlier] internet times, in web 2.0, tech companies moved very fast, users adopted very fast, and regulators played a big catch-up. We don't want that to happen.

"We want to bring policymakers, civil society, academia, developers, tech, all together to build the metaverse together in a responsible and safe way."

# £7.1m hit to Kindred safe gambling boast

**Dominic Walsh**

Kindred Group's boast that it "continues to transform gambling" was looking hollow yesterday when two of its businesses were handed a penalty of £7.1 million for safer gambling and anti-money laundering failings.

Platinum Gaming, the operator behind Unibet, and 32Red Ltd, which operates 32red.com, were also given an official warning after the investigation by the UK Gambling Commission into the activities of Kindred.

Kindred, which sponsors football clubs including Rangers, Middlesbrough and Derby County, was given a penalty of £4.2 million over 32Red's activities and a penalty of £2.9 million in respect of Platinum's behaviour.

Shares of the company, which is based in Malta but listed on the Stockholm exchange, lost SKr1.60, or 1.42 per cent, to SKr110.95, valuing the company at almost Skr26 billion.

> **Playtech sale possible**
>
> The chief executive of Playtech has refused to rule out a sale of the gambling technology group's Italian business, suggesting that having Snaitech gave it options. Mor Weizer, 47, said Snaitech could deliver significant organic growth, making the company more valuable. Playtech reported 2022 revenue up 31 per cent at constant currency to €1.6 billion, with underlying earnings up 22 per cent to €405.6 million. Snaitech grew adjusted earnings by 39 per cent to €254.2 million.

Kindred, which has a global workforce of more than 2,000, was started as Unibet in 1997 by Anders Strom from his flat in London. In 2017 it acquired 32Red and its other brands include Bingo.com, MariaCasino and VladCazino.

In 2020 it became the first global online gambling company to commit to zero revenue from harmful gambling. As of the end of last year, 3.3 per cent of its revenue came from harmful gambling. That target will be in sharper focus as Kindred seeks to ensure its failings are not repeated.

The regulator said 32Red's controls had "failed to identify and protect potential problem gamblers". In one case, 32Red allowed a customer to deposit £43,000 and within seven days the gambler had lost £36,000.

Kindred's policies and procedures were found wanting when the commission found that customers who had been blocked or self-excluded from 32Red could then register on Platinum Gaming. Its policies on anti-money laundering were "not appropriate".

Kindred said it acknowledged the commission's "clear recognition that the group's UK operation is in an improved position since the assessment".

# US charges crypto-mogul

**Robert Miller**

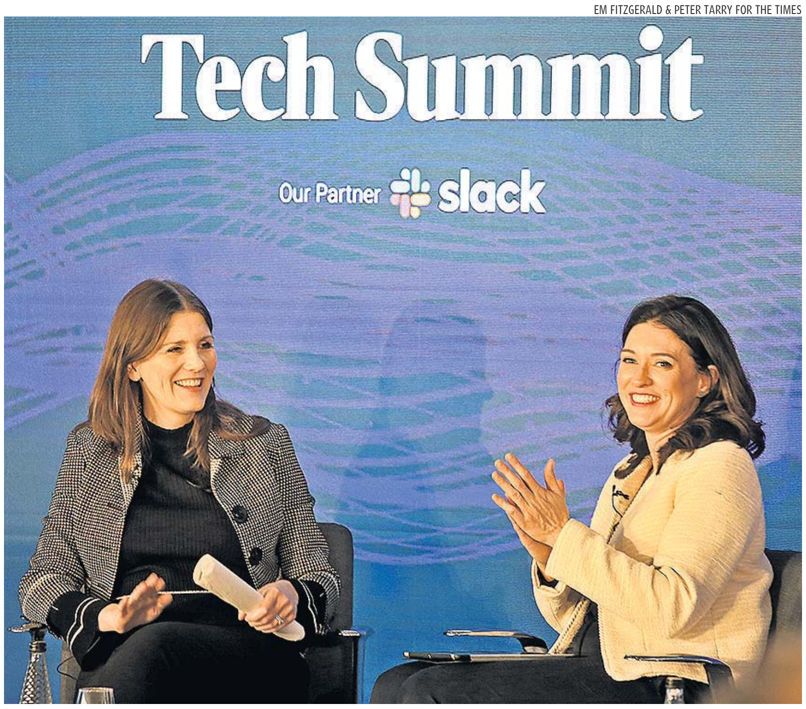
Police in Montenegro arrested a man thought to be Do Kwon, who is accused of defrauding investors in a multibillion-dollar cryptocurrency scheme, the interior minister said yesterday.

"The person is suspected of being one of the most wanted fugitives, South Korean national Do Kwon, a co-founder and CEO of the Singapore-based Terraform Labs," Filip Adzic tweeted.

Hours after the arrest, federal prosecutors in New York charged the Terraform Labs co-founder with conspiracy to defraud, commodities fraud, securities fraud, wire fraud and conspiracy to engage in market manipulation.

TerraUSD, a stablecoin, was designed to connect traditional and cryptocurrency markets, and to be used by traders like cash or as a store of value between crypto trades.

EM FITZGERALD & PETER TARRY FOR THE TIMES






Technology secretary Michelle Donelan, top left, with Katie Prescott of The Times

Big tech has been hit with large fines and become embroiled in various investigations by global regulators amid a range of concerns including data, privacy and competition.

Sir Nick Clegg , Meta's president for global affairs, and Britain's former deputy prime minister, has the job of handling controversial issues that arise from the group's social media platforms.

The majority of Meta's revenue is generated through adverts on its social networks but the group, led by Mark Zuckerberg, its chairman and chief executive, changed its name from Facebook in 2021 to assert its focus on the metaverse, a virtual realm seen by many as the internet's next frontier.

Matras said it was "very difficult for private companies to make decisions around social equities".

She explained that, for example, ideas of freedom of speech and hate speech can conflict and the tech industry "shouldn't be making those decisions. That's why it's very important to work together with regulators on what should be our strategy on these issues."

Ben Maruthappu, co-founder and chief executive of Cera, a digital healthcare company, also speaking at the summit yesterday, said: "You have to partner with a regulator to help them understand the impact of technology rather than going up against them — and the person who told me that was Nick Clegg [a former chairman of Cera's advisory board]".

# Top law firm turns to the magic of AI for savings

**Alex Ralph**

The magic circle legal firm Allen & Overy is using artificial intelligence on a "massive scale" to improve productivity but any clients looking for a cut in fees may have to wait a while yet.

The firm has introduced an AI chatbot named Harvey to help its lawyers find efficiencies after testing it towards the end of last year.

The adoption comes as companies in various industries are exploring the use of "generative AI" software technology, encouraged by the launch in November of ChatGPT, an AI chatbot from OpenAI, backed by Microsoft.

Speaking at The Times Tech Summit yesterday, David Wakeling, a partner and head of the law firm's markets innovation group, said there were 3,500 people using it in "so many languages across so many jurisdictions" and Harvey was being used to help create a first piece of legal research or a draft of "weird provision which there isn't existing knowhow for".

"The lawyer is then taking that output knowing it hallucinates, knowing it makes mistakes and editing it. So the expert is in the loop. And then having saved time, delivering it to the client, tailored for the client to use."

Wakeling said that "even the more seasoned partners at Allen & Overy are pretty excited by this. You can't help but get caught up in the huge momentum around generative AI, whatever age you are."

He added: "And I feel like the clients expect it and want to talk about it."

However, asked whether Allen & Overy's adoption of the technology and its more efficient lawyers could mean a reduction in fees for clients, he said to "ask me again in a year".

"The way we're using it today is across 3,500 lawyers where there is an hour here, an hour there, and time savings. It's quite hard to be very specific about a time saving because it's anecdotal and there's no clear way of measuring it because this is so new. What we're moving to now are specific deployments of generative AI for specific client problems — that is where we will see big cost savings. So ask me again in a year. and you'll get a much more substantive answer about what it means."

# Beijing will oppose forced sale of TikTok

**Callum Jones**
US Business Correspondent

The boss of TikTok faced a torrent of criticism in Washington after Beijing declared it would "firmly oppose" any move to force the sale of the Chinese-owned short-form video app.

In a combative congressional hearing, Shou Zi Chew insisted that users of TikTok, and their data, were safe.

He failed to convince many of his questioners, who said the platform was a national security threat and threatens the mental health of young people.

TikTok's American data is stored "on American soil, by an American company, overseen by American personnel", Chew told the US House energy and commerce committee. He claimed that the platform was "free from any manipulation by any government".

The app, which has expanded rapidly, now has a base of more than a billion users around the world. It is owned by ByteDance, a Chinese technology company, and is headquartered in Los Angeles, California, and Singapore.

It has faced scrutiny of its relationship with Beijing, and the Biden administration is said to have demanded its Chinese owners divest their stakes or face a potential ban. Critics in Congress allege that the platform amounts to "a weapon" of China's Communist Party.

TikTok says it built a "firewall" around US user data, and has contracted Oracle, a US business, to store it. The platform also says it rigorously screens potentially harmful content.

Yesterday the UK parliament said it would ban TikTok from its devices and networks, citing cybersecurity concerns. The government announced a similar ban last week.

At yesterday's US hearing, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, its Republican chairwoman, told Chew: "Your platform should be banned." Rodgers said: "TikTok collects nearly every data point imaginable, from people's location to what they type and copy, who they talk to, biometric data and more."

Earlier on Thursday Beijing said it would resist a US bid to force ByteDance to sell the platform. "If the news is true, China will firmly oppose it," a spokeswoman for the Ministry of Commerce said. Asked about the comments, Chew said: "I cannot speak on behalf of a Chinese government official."

But Chew said there was distance between TikTok's owner and the Chinese government. ByteDance, based in Beijing, is 60 per cent-owned by "global institutional investors", he said, citing BlackRock, General Atlantic and Sequoia. "ByteDance is not an agent of China or any other country."

Chew, 40, is a former Goldman Sachs banker and graduate of University College London. The Singaporean joined ByteDance as its chief financial officer in March 2021, and was appointed chief executive of TikTok soon after.

# Morse's merger is a risky endeavour



**BUSINESS COMMENTARY** *Alistair Osborne*

City stockbrokers know how to sell stuff. So no surprise to see them banging the drum for the £43 million all-share merger of mid-cap players Cenkos and finnCap.

Apparently, the 50:50 tie-up will create "a market-leading full-service advisory firm for growth and investment companies" (report, page 40). It's built, as Cenkos boss Julian Morse put it, on a "true meeting of minds". The result will be a business with more than £50 million sales and £20 million cash: home to 230 "colleagues" beavering away to serve 210 clients. And it's backed by 46.31 per cent of finnCap investors. Yet it also looks pretty defensive, not least given the jitters in the banking sector.

No question, a successful merger would be a boon for finance-seeking small companies, the bedrock of the UK economy. But the whole thing does require a leap of faith. Cenkos came to market in October 2006, priced at 140½p a share and valued at £102 million. FinnCap floated in November 2018 at 28p, valued at £47.1 million. And now they're bunking up at a fraction of that, with Cenkos shares falling 1 per cent to 38½p, while finnCap's ticked up 5 per cent to 12¼p.

True, over the years, some of their clients have provided plenty of (expensive) entertainment. Cenkos, long close to Neil Woodford, brought us the "revolutionary" pallet designer RM2 International, which fell apart; an advisory role at Rob Terry's "country club built on sand", otherwise known as Quindell; and lately a £9.2 million cash-call at MJ Hudson, only months before an accounting scandal saw the shares suspended. FinnCap became adviser to Telit Communications days before its boss Oozi Cats was outed as Uzi Katz, a fugitive from US justice, while its recent exploits include advising British Honey, which has just gone bust.

Such scrapes go with a hunting ground that's seen finnCap become No 1 on Aim and Cenkos No 2. And they do have complementary strengths. In Numis-style, there'll be co-chief executives, with Morse focused on Cenkos's clout in capital markets and finnCap's boss, John Farrugia, looking after the stuff that his firm brings: debt advisory, finance for private companies not keen on the public market glare, and M&A, via its offshoot Cavendish. The duo see "significant", though unquantified, "synergies", spanning back-office staff and the relocation of Cenkos's team to finnCap's offices. And there is only one client overlap — yet to be announced.

Morse would deny it's a defensive deal, too. He says that even in "the worst market for 20 years", with deals and IPOs drying up, both firms had enough cash to soldier on alone. Add back dividends, including "the 130p we've paid" since float, and their share price performance isn't so bad either. And, having broken off talks last autumn with Panmure Gordon, Farrugia reckons he's now "found a partner who shares the same vision".

Still, seeing is believing. Together they may prove a better business. But neither firm has yet been an example to clients of what makes a must-have investment.

## Bond saga awaits

Maybe regulating banks isn't Finma's forte. But the Swiss financial regulator is a dab hand at one thing: creating new revenue streams for lawyers, as it's proved by wiping out all $17 billion of Credit Suisse's Additional Tier 1 bonds. You don't have to be Tidjane Thiam, the former boss ousted after a spying scandal, to spot that "what happened will play out in the courts for years", as he wrote in the Financial Times.

Junking the AT1s while preserving $3.25 billion of value for shareholders reversed the usual debt/equity hierarchy (report, page 43). But Finma looks right that Credit Suisse's bonds "contractually provide that they will be completely written down in a 'viability event'". Like other things close to the locals' hearts — yodelling, cuckoo clocks, banks with more holes than the cheese — these bonds had a Swiss flavour. They weren't typical CoCos, contingent convertible bonds, that convert to equity in a crisis but "contingent write-down capital". The prospectuses make clear that they "could be cancelled in whole or in part", regardless of what happens to the equity. The legally contentious issue is what constitutes the "viability event". Finma says it's triggered when "extraordinary government support is granted" and that Credit Suisse was "granted extraordinary liquidity assistance loans", while the UBS deal was also underpinned by government guarantees.

Yet lawyers representing irate bondholders reckon Finma's interpretation is wrong. Natasha Harrison, founding partner of Pallas Partners, says that, under the AT1 terms, a "viability event" occurs in two scenarios — both linked to "measures being taken with respect to Credit Suisse's capital adequacy and solvency". But in the Swiss government's emergency legislation, the commentary around that and in "subsequent statements by Finma", the AT1 writedown "is expressly linked both to liquidity of Credit Suisse and the UBS takeover" — not capital adequacy or solvency. So how's that fit the "narrow 'viability event' requirements"?

Hedge funds have been buying up Credit Suisse's wiped-out AT1s for 3 cents on the dollar. This will be a long legal fight.

## Playing catch-up

Up by a quarter point to 4.25 per cent. At least Andrew Bailey and his eight ratesetting chums didn't attempt to "look through" the present 10.4 per cent inflation rate or get distracted by the collywobbles from the banking market.

But the latest rise makes the eleventh on the trot. It's hard to think of a better illustration of how far the Bank of England was off the pace.

*alistair.osborne@thetimes.co.uk*

# Markets betting on end to rate rises

**Mehreen Khan** Economics Editor

Investors have increased bets on the Bank of England having carried out its final interest rate rise amid expectations of rapidly falling inflation and fears over financial stability.

Money markets are now pricing in a 50-50 chance of no more rate increases after the monetary policy committee (MPC) carried out its eleventh back-to-back increase in borrowing costs yesterday. The base rate has risen from 0.1 per cent in December 2021 to 4.25 per cent, the highest since November 2008, as the Bank tries to contain runaway inflation.

"This rate hike cycle is close to completion," Tim Graf, head of macro strategy at State Street Global Markets, said.

The Bank was the first major global monetary authority to begin raising interest rates to quell inflation after the pandemic in late 2021. Surging energy prices and supply chain disruption were the drivers of rising prices for most of 2022, with domestic inflationary pressures rising in recent months.

Like other central banks, the MPC has faced calls to end monetary tightening or risk deepening fears over the health of the financial system as three US lenders went bust and Credit Suisse underwent a forced sale last week. The Bank's financial policy committee has said the UK banking system is resilient and well-capitalised, with little evidence so far that contagion is spreading to British-based lenders.

After more than a decade of sub-zero rates, restrictive global monetary policy has caused major financial market volatility, forcing down the price of government bonds, stocks and crypto-assets.

The committee yesterday repeated a promise to raise borrowing costs again if inflationary pressure is worse than expected. Data for February showed price growth accelerated by 10.4 per cent compared with 2022, defying the Bank's expectations of a slowdown.

3.3%

**Yields on two-year government bonds**

Source: Times research

But the nine-member committee also noted that wage pressures may have peaked and that its preferred measure of inflation, known as core services price growth, was in line with forecasts. Two dovish rate-setters dissented and voted for no change to rates this month.

Martin Beck, adviser to the EY Item Club, said evidence of softening inflation "will be sufficient to sway a majority on the MPC to vote for no change by the time the committee meets next in May. By that point, headline inflation should have begun to meaningfully turn down and pipeline price pressures should look increasingly benign."

The MPC has said it will pay close attention to wages and prices, as companies may be attempting to protect their profit margins to cope with rising costs.

Thomas Pugh, an economist at the professional services firm RSM, said the next interest rate decision would hinge on the labour market, including unemployment and outstanding vacancies, a figure that has been at a record of over one million for the past six months.

"The earliest indicators of labour market tightness, such as vacancies, are starting to ease and more timely measures of wage growth are falling. We expect wage growth to come down sharply over the next six months to a year as firms dramatically reduce their hiring in the face of weak demand," Pugh said.

Yields on two-year government bonds fell back 10 basis points to 3.3 per cent, while the pound strengthened by 0.3 per cent against the dollar to $1.23.

The FTSE 100 fell, with multinational companies in the index weighed down by the stronger pound. It closed down 67.24 points, or 0.9 per cent, at 7,499.60. The FTSE 250 finished 27.83 points, or 0.2 per cent, down at 18,729.96.

**Leading article, page 29**

## Worried consumers still plan to spend big

**Consumer confidence continued to rise this month despite growing concern about personal finances, a closely watched survey shows (Arthi Nachiappan writes).**

**It rose by two points to minus 36 on the monthly index by GfK, the market intelligence company. The biggest factor was a rise in the likelihood that people would buy big-ticket items such as furniture and electrical goods. This metric rose by four points to minus 33 according to the survey of 2,000 people aged 16 and over between March 1 and 14.**

**However, the overall growth masks a decline in consumer sentiment about personal finances, which fell by three points on the barometer to minus 21.**

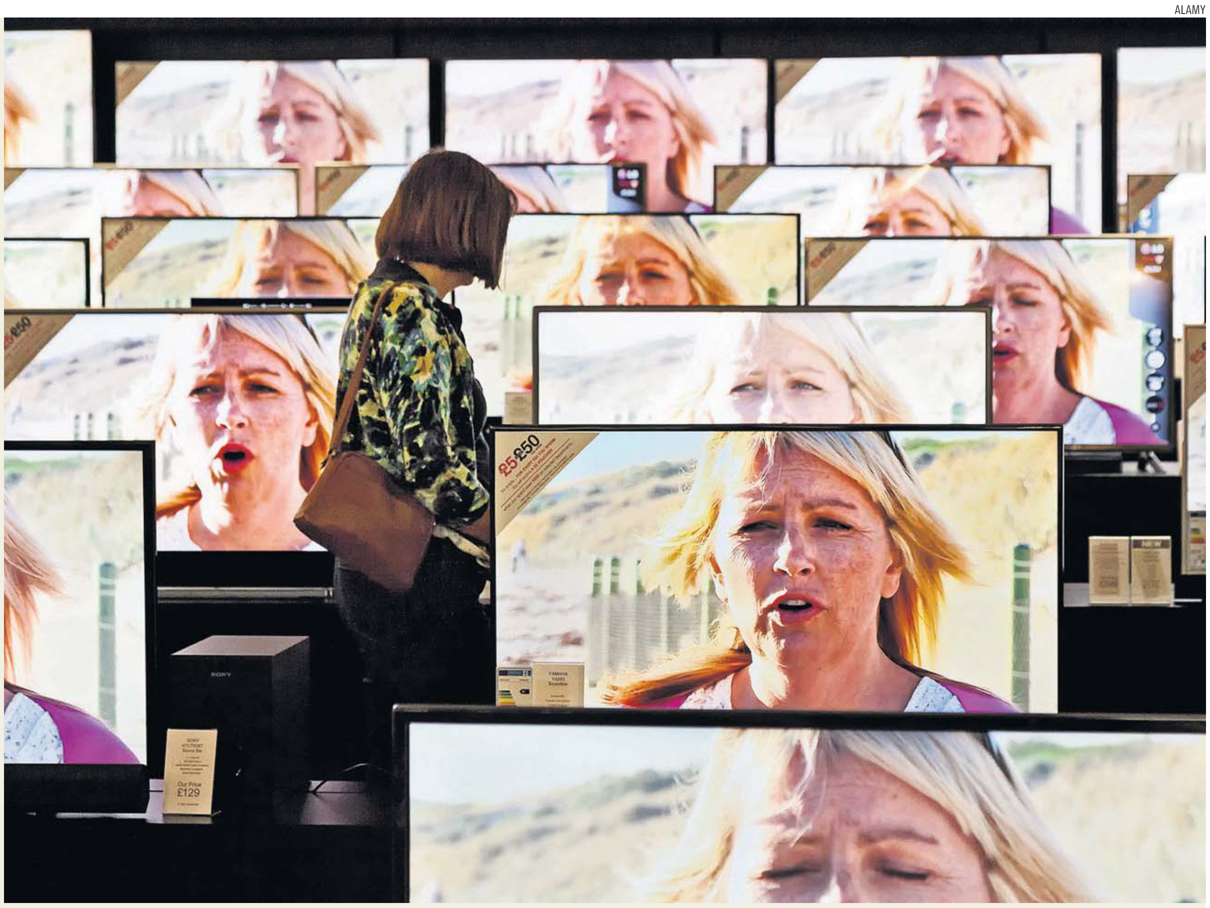
**Finances have been squeezed not only by the cost of living crisis but also by rises in interest rates as the Bank of England races to contain inflation.**

**The headline inflation rate surprised forecasters by rising to 10.4 per cent in February, the latest figures show, up from 10.1 per cent in January. It is thought to have peaked at a 41-year high of 11.1 per cent in October, and had been falling until a surge in food prices last month. The Bank of England yesterday implemented its eleventh rise in interest rates since December 2021, taking them to 4.25 per cent, the highest since 2008.**

**Consumers' perceptions improved after the UK avoided an early recession and the official forecaster improved its growth forecast to suggest that it would avoid a recession altogether. Confidence hit a record low last September when inflation was close to its peak.**

**Joe Staton, client strategy director at GfK, said: "A small improvement in the overall index score this month masks continuing concerns among consumers about their personal financial situation. This measure best reflects the financial pulse of the nation and it remains weak, with the figure for the coming year down three to minus 21 and an unchanged score for the past 12 months of minus 26." He added: "Forecasts that headline inflation will fall this year have proved premature, given Wednesday's announcement of an unexpected increase. Wages are not keeping up with rising prices and the cost of living crisis remains a stark reality for most."**

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**Anxious about their finances but relieved there is no sign of recession, consumers are becoming a little less reluctant to spend**

## Businesses face shock as energy subsidy ends

**James Hurley**

Hundreds of thousands of businesses may need to "shrink, restructure or close" when help with their energy bills is cut back next week, an employers' group has warned.

The end of the Energy Bill Relief Scheme (EBRS) risks putting 370,000 companies who fixed their energy bills last year in financial difficulty, the Federation of Small Businesses said.

A new support scheme due to be implemented next Friday, the Energy Bills Discount Scheme, offers a markedly lower level of support.

The federation said that thanks to lower wholesale prices, energy market prices have stabilised for those fixing their contracts now, or who are on variable tariffs, but those who fixed their deals last year "will see huge increases as they are locked into a high price".

The group said energy companies should be "sympathetic to the plight of small firms in this position" and allow them to renegotiate or extend their contracts in return for lower outgoings in the short term.

It estimated that a quarter of small businesses are locked into energy contracts signed last year, at a time when wholesale prices were close to record highs, and one in four of this group "could have to downsize, rethink their business model, or even close when they are hit by the rise in energy costs".

It cited the example of a pub using 48,000 kWh a year in electricity and 192,000 kWh in gas which signed a new contract in August last year. The pub would have received a reduction of £60,000 on its estimated £85,000 annual energy bill under the outgoing scheme. Under the new system the same business would only receive just over £2,000 in help.

Tina McKenzie, policy chairwoman of the FSB, said: "The jump in energy bills on April Fool's Day will be a shock to hundreds of thousands of small businesses, who signed up to fixed contracts when the government discount was guaranteed under EBRS.

"In a week's time with the rollback of government support, this group of vulnerable small firms will see their bills revert to high rates. This cliff-edge will also hit consumers, as businesses will have to raise prices to cope with soaring bills, driving up inflation."

# Companies fined £60m for rigging demolition bids

**Continued from page 35**

at Addleshaw Goddard, said the companies which settled with the authority were unlikely to appeal against the fines, although "it is nevertheless possible" those which did not could try to overturn the findings.

Each of those ten contractors was involved in at least one instance of bid rigging between January 2013 and June 2018, the competition authority said.

The regulator found that five of them — Brown and Mason; Cantillon; McGee; Scudder; and Erith — were also involved in compensation arrangements, under which the designated losers of the contracts were compensated by the eventual winner.

The level of compensation varied but on one occasion it was higher than £500,000. Some of the firms produced false invoices in an attempt to cover up their illegal behaviour.

DSM and Squibb, which had originally been suspected of being involved in compensation agreements, were cleared by the CMA.

In addition to the fines imposed,



**Rigging related to contracts including work for Selfridges and the Met Police**

three directors were disqualified for their involvement in the unlawful conduct. David Darsey, formerly a director of Erith, as well as Michael Cantillon and Paul Cluskey, both of Cantillon, have been banned from holding company directorships until at least 2027.

It is not the first time that the practice of "cover bidding" has been looked into. In 2009 the CMA's predecessor, the Office of Fair Trading, fined 103 construction firms £129.2 million for rigging bids for building contracts.

# Harry Wallop

## It's still a man's world, but it would be nothing without these two women



The London Stock Exchange likes to invite notable people to open the day's trading at 8am, often executives from a company making an IPO. Today it has the actor Brian Cox, who plays Logan Roy, the odious plutocrat from *Succession*, to do the honours.

I am an enormous fan of the TV show and the LSE knows that the stunt will get it good publicity but it is a shame that the (fictionally) corrupt bully will overshadow a far more interesting duo invited to the ceremony on Monday: Susan Shaw and Hilary Pearson.

Hardly anyone will know these two women but 50 years ago they, along with four others, made history by turning up to work.

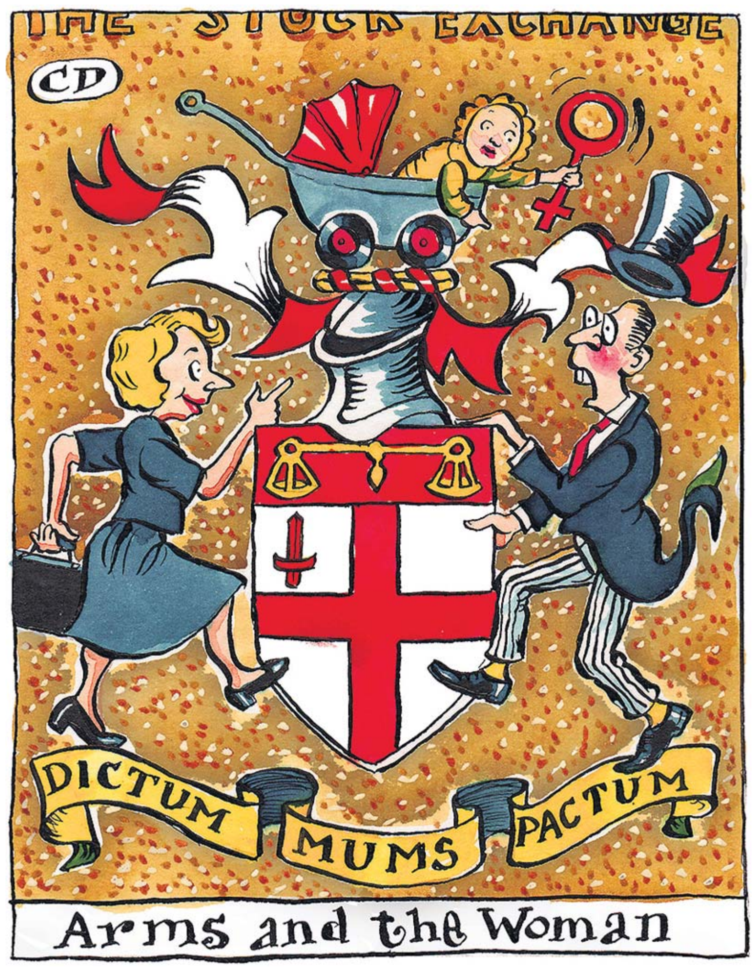
The six were the first women to become members of the London Stock Exchange, the culmination of a two-decade battle which exposed some of the worst misogyny of the age. Some younger readers may struggle to understand this concept, but my mother started work in an era when it was not just difficult but impossible for women to do some jobs. We are not just talking airline pilots and mechanics: some City jobs were barred to women too.

But on March 26, 1973, Shaw became the first female (apart from the Queen) to walk on to the hallowed teak floor of "The House".

Her admission into the 170-year-old institution was thought, like a female prime minister, to be something that Britain would never see. One male City worker summed up the opposition at the time, telling a newspaper: "There are certain professions best done by men, like coal mining and stockbroking."

It is hard to exaggerate how undiluted the boys' boarding school atmosphere was in parts of the City. "Back then the only woman you really ever saw either served you your lunch or was your secretary," a senior City figure told me. Government brokers still wore top hats to visit the Bank of England and a bell was rung by a butler at 3.15pm in the Exchange, allowing members to light up. It was known as the "smoking rattle".

The rules of the Stock Exchange did not explicitly bar women but to become a member you had to be proposed and seconded by an existing member: it was quite literally a gentleman's club. Talent was not a requirement. Every time a woman was proposed throughout the 1960s and early 1970s they were voted down.




Women could become stockbrokers and they could manage clients' money but without being members of the Stock Exchange they could not become partners of their companies nor enter the Exchange itself.

When asked why women should not join, one particularly fusty member said that the lack of female lavatories made it an impossible notion. Along with many, Shaw saw the arguments against joining as "absolutely ridiculous. There were loos back in our offices and there were public loos up in the visitors' gallery."

Another female applicant pointed out that if they were caught short they could always dash down to the public lavatories at Bank Underground station.

The original six women finally won their battle only because the London Stock Exchange had agreed to a merger with the regional exchanges in Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester. These exchanges already had female members so London no longer had a leg to stand on. "It was a bit of a damp squib in the end," Shaw conceded.

Half a century on you would hope that the battles were over, that equality had been reached. But it hasn't. Yes, the Stock Exchange itself has a female boss, Julia Hoggett, but of the FTSE 250 companies, 38.9 per cent have female board members, which sounds decent until you realise that most of those are non-executives. Only 12 per cent of executive positions are held by women (it is a bit higher for the FTSE 100, at 17 per cent). Women surmounting the last bastion of the male-dominated workplace was meant to cause a trickle-down effect but boards stuffed with tokenistic women is what Michelle Tessaro, at Cranfield University, calls "the trickle-up effect".

There is still a significant pay gap between men and women, especially in the City. According to the consultancy PwC the pay gap in financial services stands at 26.6 per cent, compared with 12.1 per cent in the wider UK market. Even mining and construction have a better record.

I spoke this week to Shaw, who at the age of 87 is still as modest as she was back in 1973, when she was slightly shocked, as she tackled a pile of ironing on returning from her day on the Stock Exchange floor, to find herself on the evening news. "It always surprises me when people say I've broken barriers: we just happened to be there."

She is horrified at modern standards of dress ("people wearing sneakers in the City!") and mourns the demise of face-to-face trading in the stock market, but is far from being a fuddy-duddy.

She told me an amusing story about an incident in her early days of being a stockbroker when she had to rush home in the middle of work to deal with a distressed nanny and one of her children's dead goldfish. It is a story that illustrates both the necessity of having good childcare if you want a successful career and that it is always the mother, never the father, who gets the call. Fifty years on, how much has really changed?

Both an awful lot, and not that much. The top hats and blatant sexism may have gone but back in 1973 Shaw was racked with guilt that somehow she was letting down her two-year-old by taking on such a prominent job, something that nearly every mother shares to this day.

Equality of pay, jobs and opportunity is, as she says, "a long slow battle" but one definitely worth fighting.

***Harry Wallop is a consumer journalist and broadcaster. Follow him on Twitter @hwallop***

# Income gap narrowed during the pandemic

**Robert Miller**

The income gap between poorer and wealthier households narrowed during the pandemic but that trend is unlikely to continue, according to a leading think tank.

Despite the economic disruption of the pandemic, poverty rates were below their 2019–20 level in 2020-21, and roughly similar to their 2019–20 level in 2021–22, latest figures from the Department for Work and Pensions show.

Inequality was also lower in 2021–22 compared with 2019–20, because in general poorer households' incomes were protected during the pandemic, so they fared better than richer households, the Institute for Fiscal Studies said. The data published yesterday covers the period up to March last year, after restrictions had eased and just as inflation took off.

On the other hand, median household income fell by 1.2 per cent between 2019–20 and 2021–22. This means that even before the cost of living crisis began, income for the average household had fallen for two years.

For low-income households, the growth in income they experienced over the pandemic is unlikely to continue with the expiry of the £20-a-week universal credit uplift and the falling real value of benefits. Rising energy prices will also hit these households particularly hard, the institute noted.

Average household income before housing costs has failed to return to pre-pandemic levels, at £565 per week in the year to March 2022 compared with £572 in the year to March 2020.

After housing costs are taken into account, average household income was at £500 per week in the year to last March, up slightly on £492 the previous year and £499 the year before that.

The institute warned that poverty rates could rise above their pre-pandemic levels because earnings have not kept pace with price increases, and benefits have fallen in real terms.

In its own analysis, the think tank said: "High inflation since the start of 2022 means that we are likely to see declines in income across the distribution in 2022–23."

A government spokesman said the figures "reflect the country coming out of the pandemic and accompanying rising prices" and that record levels of support have been provided through cost of living payments, the Household Support Fund and the Energy Price Guarantee, which "will continue to hold down people's energy bills".



# Cenkos and finnCap agree £43m tie-up

**Helen Cahill**

Cenkos Securities and finnCap Group are to merge in a £43 million deal that will create a UK small-cap brokerage firm with combined revenues of more than £50 million.

The tie-up will create a group with more than 210 listed clients and more that 230 staff across equity capital markets, M&A and debt advisory and private fundraising.

FinnCap investors representing 46.31 per cent of the company's capital have backed the deal. The company has a number of high-profile City figures on its shareholder register including the tech investor Vin Murria and the veteran financiers Jon Moulton and Lord Leigh of Hurley.

Panmure Gordon and finnCap broke off merger talks last November when they were unable to agree a price.

City brokers have been knocked by a slowdown in deals and stock market flotation activity over the past year amid rising interest rates and a decline in the UK economy. Policymakers have complained that reforms are needed to make London a more attractive venue for listings and bankers have warned that private equity companies will continue to bid for public companies.

FinnCap and Cenkos said in a statement that the group's board would have an equal number of directors from each company. Robert Lister, chairman of finnCap, will become the senior independent non-executive on the board and Lisa Gordon, chairwoman of Cenkos, will become chairwoman.

Gordon said: "The two firms' cultures are very similar and our client lists and capabilities are complementary. This is good for our clients, our employees, our investors and the UK capital markets as a whole." Lister said: "It has been a pleasure to serve as chair of finnCap over the last two years. I am excited by the potential of the combined group."

Shares in Cenkos closed down ½p, or 1.2 per cent, to 38½p, while finnCap rose ¾p, or 5.3 per cent, to 12¼p.







## We're now a start-up, says 120-year-old Ford

**The 120-year-old Ford Motor Company is seeking to rebadge as a start-up as it pours billions of dollars into its battery-powered electric cars and lorries (Simon Freeman writes).**

**The American company said its all-electric division lost about $3 billion before taxes over the past two years and it expected to burn through a similar sum this year. Executives said they did not expect the division, known as Model e, to become profitable before late 2026. John Lawler, the**

# Lack of friends

**Ben Martin** Banking Editor

Amigo is to shut itself down and financially wipe out its shareholders after the troubled sub-prime lender failed to drum up investor support for a last-ditch £45 million fundraising.

The demise of the company that was once Britain's biggest guarantor lender comes less than five years after it listed on the London stock market at a £1.3 billion valuation.

Since then, however, it has been crippled by hundreds of thousands of complaints from borrowers who claimed they were mis-sold high-interest loans and demanded compensation.

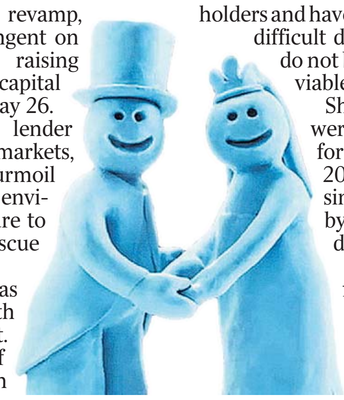
Its bosses had tried to save the business through a High Court-approved restructuring that would have refocused the company on to a new suite of loan products under a brand called RewardRate. This revamp, however, was contingent on Amigo successfully raising £45 million in equity capital from investors by May 26.

Yesterday the lender blamed volatile markets, wider economic turmoil and the regulatory environment for its failure to find investors to rescue the group.

All new lending has been stopped with immediate effect. The wind-down of the business, which will take about a year, means borrowers owed compensation will receive less than was originally planned. This is because Amigo, which has also written off loan balances worth £200 million as part of its customer redress exercise, had hoped to top up a £97 million compensation pot it has established with a further £15 million from the fundraising. Without this extra money, borrowers who are due compensation in cash are estimated to receive only 17p in the pound, instead of 20p.

Danny Malone, Amigo's chief executive since last year, said it was a "sad day" for the company's almost 200 employees at its offices in Bournemouth, and for customers "who will now receive a lower level of cash compensation".

"From the beginning, we have faced significant challenges in seeking a solution in the best interests of all our stakeholders and have had to make a series of difficult decisions," he said. "We do not believe there is another viable route forward."



Shares in Amigo, which were sold to investors for 275p each at its June 2018 flotation but have since collapsed, crashed by 85.6 per cent, closing down 1½p to ¼p.

The company was founded in 2005 by James Benamor, a self-confessed former petty criminal, and lent to people with weak


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## Inchcape in reverse after broker note

An unhelpful note from its own stockbroker sent shares in Inchcape, the international vehicle distributor, sharply into reverse despite all its financial metrics apparently hitting top gear (Robert Lea writes).

Inchcape, once part of a much mightier trading empire, gets vehicles from manufacturers to dealers around the world, though it is better known in the UK as a retailer of upmarket brands.

Its results for 2022 showed adjusted profit before tax rising 50 per cent to £373 million, operating margins up from 4.1 to 5.1 per cent, cashflows 39 per cent higher at £380 million and a dividend for the year up 28 per cent at 28.8p.

Its chief executive, Duncan Tait, said there had been "robust consumer demand following a prolonged period of supply shortages".

However, house broker JP Morgan Cazenove expressed concern at what this year holds. In a note to investors, it said: "Inchcape did not provide a detailed 2023 full-year outlook, which might be seen negatively at this point in the year, in our view."

The broker trimmed its 2023 forecasts by 4 per cent, meaning profit growth for the year of about 18 per cent.

The news that Inchcape's own broker had positioned itself significantly below the consensus forecast of its peers precipitated a run on the shares, which crashed 12.6 per cent, down 109p to 758p, cutting the market value of the group to a little above £3 billion. Last month the stock reached a 16-year high of 941p.

"We expect small negative revisions to consensus expectations," said JP Morgan Cazenove.

That was at variance with other analysts including Citi, which said it expected "limited changes to consensus forecast", adding: "We do not expect a major share price reaction."

**firm's finance chief, said it should be viewed as a start-up company within its parent founded by Henry Ford in Detroit in 1903.**

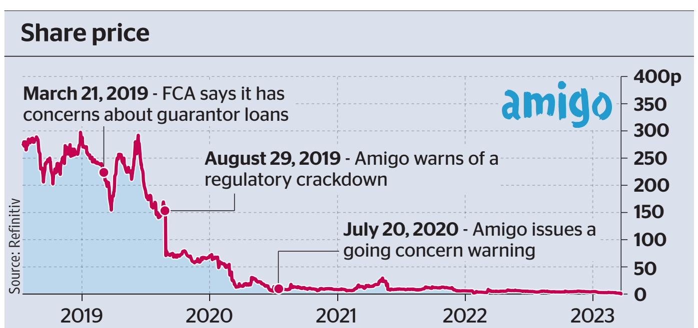
**"As everyone**



**knows, EV startups lose money while they invest in capability, develop knowledge, build sales volume and gain market share," he said. At present Ford offers three electric vehicles for sale in the US: the Mustang Mach E (above), the F-150 Lightning pick-up and an electric Transit. It posted pre-tax losses of $900 million in 2021 and $2.1 billion last year, and is expected to lose $3 billion this year. It hopes it can reach a production rate of two million EVs by the end of 2026.**

**Ford Blue, the unit that sells petrol, diesel and hybrid vehicles, made just over $10 billion before taxes over the past two years and Ford Pro, its commercial vehicle unit, made $5.9 billion.**

# forces lender to close




### Behind the story

**Amigo is the latest lender to be swept away by a flood of compensation claims across the high-cost credit industry.**

**Morses Club, the doorstep lender, has been similarly poleaxed by a jump in complaints from its borrowers and delisted from the London Stock Exchange last month.**

**A surge in redress demands also forced a change of strategy at Provident Financial, which was Britain's biggest doorstep provider of high-interest loans but announced in 2021 it was pulling out of the market to focus on near-prime and mid-cost loans.**

**The sharp rise in compensation claims has been driven by a change of stance at the Financial Ombudsman Service, and closer scrutiny of high-cost lending by the Financial Conduct Authority. However, it has been fuelled by claims management companies, which have sought to cash in on the trend.**

**Critics of the regulator's tougher stance on high-interest lending claim the shrinking market could force people who are unable to borrow from mainstream lenders to use loan sharks, particularly during the cost of living crisis.**

credit histories. Its high-interest loans were guaranteed by another person, typically a relative or friend of the borrower, who was on the hook if repayments were missed. Benamor, 45, was subsequently involved in a bust-up with the Amigo board and is no longer associated with the company.

Several high-cost lenders have been hit by a surge in customer complaints in recent years after the Financial Ombudsman Service, which handles disputes between customers and firms, took a tougher stance on the industry.

The Financial Conduct Authority has also increased its scrutiny of guarantor lending and last month censured Amigo for failing to carry out adequate affordability checks on borrowers and guarantors. The regulator waived a £72.9 million fine because of the parlous state of the company's finances.

Amigo warned in January that it was struggling to secure investor support for the full £45 million. In an attempt to avoid a wind-down, bosses explored a smaller raise that would have scrapped the £15 million intended for the compensation pot. Yet even this would have been "highly unlikely" to succeed, Amigo conceded yesterday.

The team trying to rescue the business had spoken to about 200 potential backers since October, it disclosed. Investors voiced concerns including the "current affordability challenges for UK households" and "the history of regulatory intervention in the non-standard credit market", it said.

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**Fount of wisdom**
James Burstall's TV production company Argonon outperformed its peers during the lockdowns and now he has distilled the lessons he has learnt to act as a guide for others

**Tough love**
When it comes to office romance, it always pays to be clear about what is allowed and what is not, says Michelle Last of Keystone Law



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**Base Rate change**

Current National Westminster Bank and Ulster Bank Base Rates, effective from 23rd March 2023.

**4.25%**

Previous Base Rate: 4.0%.

The interest rate for lending facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements), where the rate of interest is linked to either Base Rate will vary accordingly.

Tomorrow Begins Today

NatWest

Ulster Bank, a business name of National Westminster Bank Plc. National Westminster Bank Plc. Registered in England and Wales No. 929027. Registered Office: 250 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4AA. Financial Services Firm Reference Number 121878. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.

THE TIMES

## Business briefing

Rarely has the outlook for the global economy looked so uncertain. War, political and trade tensions, yo-yoing energy prices, the battle to bring down inflation … with the situation changing by the hour, keeping up to date is essential. Get the latest news and market reaction by 8am, and analysis at 12.30pm, direct by email from the Business Editor, Richard Fletcher, and Business News Editor Martin Strydom.

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# Lloyd's Ukraine bill is

**Patrick Hosking** Financial Editor

The Lloyd's of London insurance market has set aside another £300 million to cover Ukraine-related claims, lifting its total expected claims bill for the war to £1.4 billion.

The organisation made the disclosure in full-year results for 2022, which showed it sinking to a pre-tax loss of £769 million as a sparkling underwriting performance was overshadowed by heavy mark-to-market losses on its investment portfolio.

Falling bond and equity markets last year forced Lloyd's to book £3.13 billion of losses on its £86 billion investment portfolio. Lloyd's said these were non-cash accounting losses only and for its bond holdings at least, the losses would "reverse out over the next two to three years as the assets reach maturity".

Lloyd's had exposure to Credit Suisse in the "low tens of millions" of pounds, John Neal, the chief executive, said, adding that its £12 billion cash pile was well spread across banks around the world as well as in money-market funds. It has no exposure to Credit Suisse AT1 bonds, the category of loss-absorbing bonds wiped out in the rescue this week by UBS.

At the half-year, Lloyd's set aside £1.1 billion for Ukraine, saying at the time that it expected claims linked to the conflict would be modest and dwarfed by the typical cost of a large hurricane hitting the American east coast. Neal said very few claims had yet been made but he expected more to come in for seized assets such as ships and planes, for damage and for interruption to supply chains.

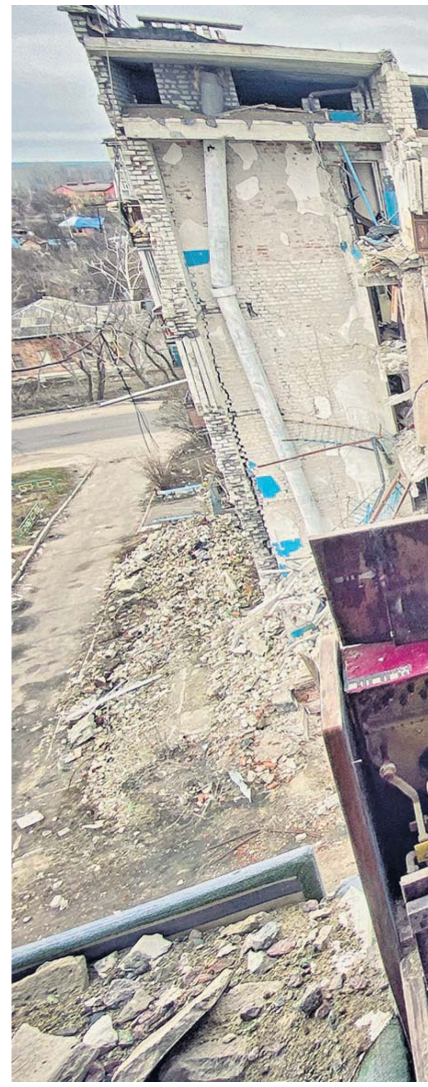
Lloyd's hailed its underwriting performance, saying that underwriting profit surged from £1.74 billion to £2.64 billion. The combined ratio fell from 93.5 per cent to 91.9 per cent, a "fantastic" performance and the best since 2015, Neal said. The ratio is regarded as a key measure of performance, reflecting claims plus expenses as a proportion of premiums. Anything under 100 per cent is a profit.

Lloyd's traces its roots to Edward Lloyd's coffee shop by the Thames in 1652 and has developed into the world's biggest specialist insurance market. It employs 2,000 people directly and about 35,000 through the brokers and syndicates that use it.

For the first time in its annual results, Lloyd's set out its expectations for the year, saying it expected to receive premium income this year of £56 billion, up by 20 per cent, and for the combined ratio to stay below 95 per cent. Rising interest rates would produce a 3 per cent return on its investments, it predicted.

Neal said claims inflation in 2022 was 6-7 per cent and he expected it to stay around the same level this year. He was sceptical of economists' claims that inflation would come back to target any time soon. Neal said: "2022 marked another year of continued progress and strong underwriting results for our market, following five years of hard work to get our performance, culture and digital transformation into shape.

"Looking to 2023, Lloyd's expects strong premium growth to around £56 billion, a combined ratio below 95 per cent and a total investment yield on



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# House sales recovering but new buyers 'need more help'

**Tom Howard**

One of Britain's biggest housebuilders has claimed that the housing market will not recover completely until the return of the Help to Buy scheme or similar incentives.

Crest Nicholson, which last year built just over 2,700 homes, has seen demand from older buyers with larger deposits pick up again in recent weeks after a tough end to last year, which was blighted by the fallout of last September's budget and soaring mortgage rates.

These buyers, who do not need high loan-to-value mortgages, are benefitting from "increasingly competitive rates" as lenders fight for new business.

"However, those with lower levels of equity are unsurprisingly finding it harder to purchase their first home and making it onto the housing ladder," Crest Nicholson said.

"Support for these potential buyers, in a higher interest rate environment, is going to be necessary if we are to see a full recovery in the housing market."

Generally, however, the FTSE 250 company said it had seen a "steady recovery in overall consumer confidence and housing market activity" of late.

Crest had been selling about one home a week at each of its 50 or sites this time last year. However, its weekly sales rate had fallen to 0.35 homes per site by the end of December.

Some demand has returned in 2023, with a weekly sales rate of 0.52 homes per site. The market, Crest said, was "softer than in the previous two years of trading, however, it remains resilient".

So far, developers have not had to tempt buyers with price cuts, although the use of incentives, such as free fixtures and fittings, has increased. Crest's sales prices "have remained robust".

Labour and material costs, which have climbed sharply in recent years, are also showing signs of receding.

"Pleasingly short, but reassures," was how Glynis Johnson, a property sector analyst at Jefferies, described Crest's update. Despite that, shares in the company declined ¾p, or 0.4 per cent, to 206¾p yesterday, giving it a stock market value of £530 million.

# to the tune of £1.4bn

YAN DOBRONOSOV/GLOBAL IMAGES UKRAINE/GETTY IMAGES



our assets of more than 3 per cent, enabling us to support customers through the uncertain times ahead."

Hurricane Ian was the costliest weather event of the year, with Lloyd's earmarking £2 billion for claims. Ian hit Florida in September, killing at least 160 people and causing damage estimated at as much as $113 billion. Other expensive hits to Lloyd's were Hurricane Fiona and the floods in Australia.

**Lloyd's said that very few claims had yet been made but it expected more to come in for seized assets such as ships and aircraft, for damage and for interruption to supply chains**

Neal's salary was frozen but, after bonuses, his total pay increased 30 per cent to £2.085 million. That compared with pay increases of about 5 per cent for directly employed staff. Those paid less than £75,000 were also given a £2,500 cost of living payment in September and are due another one of £1,500 in April.

The 2022 loss compared with a 2021 pre-tax profit of £2.28 billion.

# Wickes buoyed by young renters

**Dominic Walsh**

Wickes hinted at a return of surplus cash to shareholders as it became the latest home improvement retailer to report a slump in profits as the pandemic DIY boom continues to fade.

David Wood, chief executive, said the company was reviewing its capital allocation policy and would announce a decision in July: "The question is, do we need £100 million on the balance sheet?"

Two days after Kingfisher, the B&Q owner, revealed a 20 per cent slide in profits, Wickes unveiled a 38.4 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £40.3 million after £35 million of one-off items.

On an underlying basis its pre-tax profits for 2022 were down 11.3 per cent to £75.4 million, versus guidance of £72 million to £76 million. Price inflation was 12 per cent last year but Wood expects that to moderate to 4-5 per cent as the year progresses. A final dividend of 7.3p gives a total of 10.9p.

The company also reported core sales in the first 11 weeks of this year "moderately behind the same period last year". Despite the profits reverse, Wickes achieved record sales, with total revenues up 1.8 per cent year-on-year to £1.56 billion — a like-for-like increase of 3.5 per cent.




**£40.3m**

**Pre-tax profits at Wickes — a fall of 38.4 per cent**

Source: Wickes

Wood, 53, said that the group had made further market share gains, and its performance was still "significantly ahead of the pre-Covid period". While mindful of the consumer environment, he said Wickes was well placed to win further market share.

Wickes opened its first store in 1972 and now has 230 stores, with plans for another 20 over the next five years. It was demerged from Travis Perkins, the building materials group, two years ago. Two thirds of its sales are online.

Wood said that Wickes had started to attract younger clients. "People say that DIY is dead, but I don't think it is at all. The baseline of the DIY market is significantly higher than it was pre-Covid. And part of that is we've got a lot of new, younger DIY-ers in the market.

"Although they're in rented accommodation, they may be working from home more or not going out so much, so they're choosing to freshen up their home environment. It's a trend. The fastest growing customer base is 18-35."

Shares in Wickes shed 2¼p, or 1.6 per cent, to close at 142¾p.

# Regulator has no regrets over Credit Suisse bonds wipeout

**Ben Martin** Banking Editor

The Swiss financial regulator has defended its controversial decision to wipe out $17 billion of Credit Suisse bonds but spare some value for the troubled bank's shareholders as part of the state-orchestrated rescue of the lender.

Finma, the country's watchdog, has faced a fierce backlash from debt investors over the decimated bonds and fund managers are preparing legal action.The regulator said yesterday it stood by its stance.

At the centre of the controversy are risky securities called additional tier 1 bonds (AT1s). These are bonds that were introduced after the 2008 financial crash and are designed to absorb losses if a bank runs into trouble, to avoid the need for a taxpayer bailout. In a crisis, however, holders of AT1s expect shareholders in a stricken lender to suffer losses first.

The Swiss upended this widely-held market convention by putting Credit Suisse's shareholders ahead of the bank's AT1s investors in the rescue deal with rival UBS.

Shareholders are valued at £2.7 billion by the deal, which was pushed through by the Swiss authorities on Sunday night, while the holders of Credit Suisse's 13 AT1s are being written down to zero. The rescue involves state financial backing, including a liquidity line of as much as SwFr100 billion from the Swiss central bank.

The inversion of shareholder and bond investor claims caused a sharp sell-off in the wider $275 billion AT1 market on Monday. This prompted the eurozone financial regulators and the Bank of England to reassure investors that they would not follow the Swiss example if a lender within their jurisdiction faced a collapse.

The terms of the Credit Suisse bonds did allow for Finma to prioritise equity investors ahead of AT1 holders. Even so, preserving value for shareholders over bondholders is unprecedented. The law firms Pallas Partners and Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan are preparing lawsuits on behalf of affected bond investors.

Finma said it had relied on the prospectuses for the bonds and also on an emergency ordinance the Swiss government issued on Sunday that authorised the writedown of the AT1 debt.

"The AT1 instruments issued by Credit Suisse contractually provide that they will be completely written down in a 'viability event', in particular if extraordinary government support is granted," the regulator said. "These contractual conditions were met."


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# Volatility likely to pay off at Man

**MAN GROUP**

| Dividend yield | Assets under managʼt |
|---|---|
| 5.3 per cent | $143bn |

Active managers like to boast that they can play whipsawing markets to their advantage. But few asset managers have come out unscathed from the volatility of the past three years. Man Group is the exception.

Shares in one of the world's biggest hedge fund managers are riding almost 50 per cent above the February 2020 price, when the UK stock markets entered bear territory on the eve of global lockdowns. Assets under management are almost $20 billion, or 16 per cent, higher over the past three years.

The FTSE 250 group's tilt towards all-weather absolute return strategies, designed to perform during extreme oscillations in markets, has helped it to outperform. The recent dip in the shares underlines the risk in taking bets on macro moves, but it doesn't erase the potential for Man to capitalise on volatility, which is likely to endure.

The hedge fund manager has benefited from taking bets on moves by central bankers to tame rampant inflation by raising interest rates. The rise in bond prices that ensued in the wake of the banking crisis earlier this month, as investors speculated that central bankers would hold off on tightening policy further, has hurt returns for some of its strategies. This month, three of its core absolute return strategies have seen returns knocked by an estimated 7-11 per cent, but they remain ahead on an annual basis.

But then the future direction of central bank policy is hardly clearly laid — rate-setters on both sides of the Atlantic pressed on with increases this week. It's also not like Man's traders subscribe to one house view either, which means fluctuations in bonds and stocks could help to produce better returns this year.

The aftermath of the banking crisis has knocked confidence but generating a chunk of revenue from performance fees has also depressed the shares' earnings multiple. The market attaches little credit to performance fees, by virtue of a lack of predictability. The shares trade at just nine times forward earnings, a discount to rival UK-listed asset managers, which all have valuation multiples in the double-digits. That could invite a takeover bid. Its data/tech investing kit could attract a larger asset manager to take a punt, reckons the brokerage Numis.

Performance fees are charged on $60 billion of the $140 billion of assets under management. Last year performance fees of $779 million were the highest since 2008, at just under half of net revenue.

Wages are the largest single cost item, around half of which is variable remuneration linked to revenue.

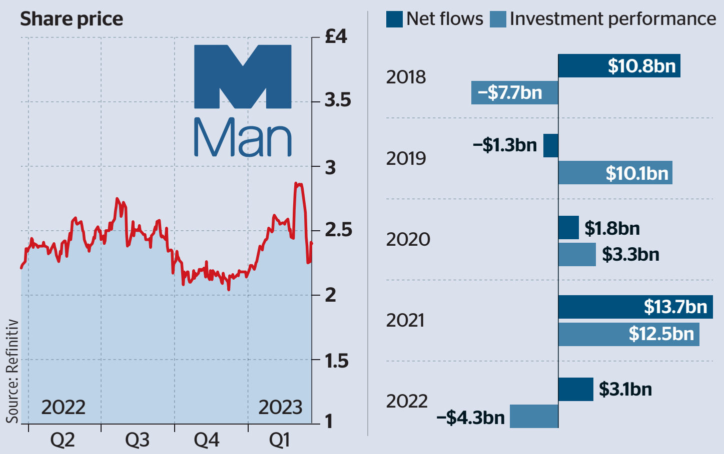
Asset managers under siege from passive alternatives have been searching for alternative sources of income to mitigate fee pressure on their long-only strategies. The inverse is true of Man Group.

The acquisition of discretionary hedge fund manager GLG in 2010 not only added funds reliant on human investment skill to its computer-driven strategies but also brought long-only funds into the house. The takeover of Boston-based Numeric in 2014 beefed-up its diversification into these strategies. But higher-margin alternatives are dominant, making up two thirds of assets under management at the end of December.

Sparing acquisitions in recent years has left plenty of room for meaty shareholder returns. Last year the dividend was raised to 15.7 cents a share, which analysts expect to be held flat this year. Still, that would leave the shares offering a potential dividend yield of 5.2 per cent. Earlier this month management announced it would buy back $125 million in shares over the next 12 months.

Man could yet prove more worth amid a struggling asset management industry.

*Man alive*




**ADVICE** Buy
**WHY** The group could benefit from further market volatility later this year

**OSB GROUP**

| Market cap | Dividend yield |
|---|---|
| £2.15 billion | 6.1 per cent |

Proving you can mine growth out of landlords has become a harder sell. That is one reason for the discount embedded in OSB Group's share price.

Buy-to-let mortgages account for almost three quarters of the FTSE 250 group's loan book. Rising borrowing costs have subdued demand across the market. The banking group is aiming for 5 per cent lending growth this year, which would be a comedown from the 12 per cent rise in the book last year.

It is not just the prospect of lower growth that has investors more cautious. There is also inherently increased risk of renters failing to make rent and landlords defaulting on their mortgage repayments. For OSB, that stress hasn't materialised yet. Impairment losses increased to 0.14 per cent of gross loans and advances last year, but that is still about the same level as pre-pandemic.

How resilient is OSB's book in a crisis? Analysts at RBC Capital have done their own stress test, assuming there is a 10 per cent fall in house prices, all landlords default on their loans at once and the bank has to crystallise losses by selling foreclosed properties. Even in that unlikely scenario, OSB would suffer a gross loss of £110 million, the investment bank estimates, lower than the lender's existing £130 million stock of impairment provisions.

OSB hasn't been shy about handing back cash to shareholders, thanks to a high regulatory capital position. Alongside a 30 per cent increase in the ordinary dividend, a special payment of 11.7p a share was recommended and another £150 million in share buybacks.

The common equity tier one ratio of 18 per cent will reduce to around 14.2 per cent, after the share buyback is completed and Basel III regulatory changes are accounted for, analysts at Shore Capital calculate. That would still leave that capital ratio roughly in line with the lender's own target of 14 per cent.

The likelihood of weaker underlying earnings this year means the ordinary dividend payment is expected by analysts to be lower, at 35.6p a share. That would leave the shares still offering a decent enough dividend, which looks secure enough for investors to remain invested.

**ADVICE** Hold
**WHY** A generous dividend yield that looks secure

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Post scandal payouts

A new scheme to compensate postmasters caught up in the Post Office Horizon scandal of the 1990s and 2000s is now open, the government said yesterday. Postmasters who took the first High Court legal action against the Post Office agreed a settlement worth £43 million plus legal costs in 2019, much of which was taken up by the costs of suing to clear their names. The government said the new scheme would ensure that they have access to compensation on the same basis as other postmasters who were so "badly wronged".

### LME cancels warrants

The London Metal Exchange said it had no reason to believe any other facilities were affected by "irregularities" found last week in nine nickel warrants at an LME-licensed warehouse. The exchange cancelled nine warrants conferring ownership of 54 tonnes of bagged nickel briquette, without disclosing what was in the bags. Sources told Reuters that bags delivered by Access World, a warehouse firm, to the commodity traders Trafigura and Stratton Metals contained stones.

### Oil stockpile sinks

The US could take years to refill its Strategic Petroleum Reserve, after sales last year took it to its lowest level since the early 1980s. "This year, it will be difficult for us to take advantage of this low price," Jennifer Granholm, energy secretary, said. "But we will continue to look for that low price because we intend to be able to save the taxpayer dollars." Last year's sale of 180 million barrels made about $94 per barrel compared with yesterday's $70.18 for West Texas Intermediate.

### Microsoft complaints

Microsoft's initial offer to address EU antitrust complaints filed by rivals is insufficient and the US software group needs to do more, Nextcloud, the German software provider, said, as regulators consider whether to open a formal investigation. Nextcloud took its grievance to the European Commission in 2021, alleging that Microsoft abused its dominance by bundling its OneDrive cloud storage service with its Windows 10 and 11 operating systems.

# PRICES

## Major indices

| | |
|---|---|
| **New York** | |
| Dow Jones | 32105.25 (+75.14) |
| Nasdaq Composite | 11787.40 (+117.44) |
| S&P 500 | 3948.72 (+11.75) |
| **Tokyo** | |
| Nikkei 225 | 27419.61 (-47.00) |
| **Hong Kong** | |
| Hang Seng | 20049.64 (+458.21) |
| **Amsterdam** | |
| AEX Index | 743.59 (+1.79) |
| **Sydney** | |
| AO | 7148.60 (-52.10) |
| **Frankfurt** | |
| DAX | 15210.39 (-5.80) |
| **Singapore** | |
| Straits | 3219.00 (-1.98) |
| **Brussels** | |
| BEL20 | 3657.72 (-8.35) |
| **Paris** | |
| CAC-40 | 7139.25 (+8.13) |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Zurich** | |
| SMI Index | 10718.54 (-63.74) |
| **DJ Euro Stoxx 50** | 4207.14 (+11.44) |
| **London** | |
| FTSE 100 | 7499.60 (-67.24) |
| FTSE 250 | 18729.96 (-27.83) |
| FTSE 350 | 4132.70 (-32.69) |
| FTSE Eurotop 100 | 3491.96 (-4.69) |
| FTSE All-Shares | 4090.90 (-31.80) |
| FTSE Non Financials | 5003.99 (-34.37) |
| techMARK 100 | 6546.18 (+9.88) |
| Bargains | n/a |
| US$ | 1.2292 (+0.0014) |
| Euro | 1.1309 (+0.0018) |
| £:SDR | 0.98 (+0.00) |
| Exchange Index | 78.56 (+0.14 |
| Bank of England official close (4pm) | |
| CPI | 127.89 Feb (2015 = 100) |
| RPI | 364.50 Feb (Jan 1987 = 100) |
| RPIX | 290.10 Jun (Jan 1987 = 100) |
| Morningstar Long Commodity | 677.16 (+5.72) |
| Morningstar Long/Short Commod | 4703.45 (+27.75) |

## London Financial Futures

| | Period | Open | High | Low | Sett | Vol | Open Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Long Gilt** | Mar 23 | 104.44 | 104.75 | 104.43 | 105.29 | 15 | 5158 |
| | Jun 23 | 104.72 | 105.14 | 103.84 | 104.97 | 192369 | 378008 |
| **3-Mth Sterling** | Jun 23 | | | | | | |
| | Sep 23 | | | | | | |
| | Dec 23 | | | | | | |
| | Mar 24 | | | | | | |
| | Jun 24 | | | | | | |
| **3-Mth Euribor** | Jun 23 | 96.585 | 96.635 | 96.530 | 96.570 | 110187 | 535699 |
| | Sep 23 | 96.520 | 96.580 | 96.430 | 96.500 | 159434 | 515010 |
| | Dec 23 | 96.660 | 96.705 | 96.535 | 96.635 | 125520 | 334854 |
| | Mar 24 | 96.760 | 96.865 | 96.680 | 96.800 | 90542 | 311094 |
| | Jun 24 | 96.915 | 97.010 | 96.825 | 96.945 | 103225 | 299916 |
| **3-Mth Euroswiss** | Jun 23 | | | | | | |
| | Sep 23 | | | | | | |
| | Dec 23 | | | | | | |
| | Mar 24 | | | | | | |
| **FTSE100** | Jun 23 | 7515.5 | 7553.0 | 7463.0 | 7503.0 | 94409 | 590560 |
| | Sep 23 | 7506.0 | 7510.0 | 7471.0 | 7483.5 | 208 | 228 |
| **FTSEurofirst 80** | Jun 23 | | | | 5688.0 | | |
| | Sep 23 | | | | 5722.5 | | |

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## Commodities

**ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)**

**Crude Oils ($/barrel FOB)**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Brent Physical | 76.88 | +0.86 |
| BFOE(May) | 75.91 | -0.78 |
| BFOE(Jun) | 75.50 | -0.88 |
| WTI(May) | 69.96 | -0.94 |
| WTI(Jun) | 70.12 | -0.90 |

**Products ($/MT)**

**Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)**

| |
|---|
| Premium Unld |
| Gasoil EEC |
| 3.5 Fuel Oil |
| Naphtha |

**ICE Futures**

**Gas Oil**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Apr | 777.00-776.75 | Jul | 725.25-724.75 |
| May | 749.50-749.00 | Aug | 722.75-722.00 |
| Jun | 732.00-731.75 | | Volume: 605342 |

**Brent (9.00pm)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| May | 76.30-76.29 | Aug | 75.63-75.60 |
| Jun | 75.94-75.92 | Sep | 75.42-75.31 |
| Jul | 75.83-75.80 | | Volume: 1857234 |

**LIFFE**

**Cocoa**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| May | 2120-2118 | Jul | 1950-1891 |
| Jul | 2119-2113 | Sep | 1939-1871 |
| Sep | 2107-2093 | Dec | 1901-1870 |
| Dec | 2051-2047 | | |
| Mar | 1990-1985 | | |
| May | 1975-1870 | | Volume: 83829 |

**RobustaCoffee**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mar | 2015-1840 | Nov | 2040-2000 |
| May | 2129-2126 | Jan | 2016-1941 |
| Jul | 2108-2105 | | |
| Sep | 2075-2045 | | Volume: 12391 |

**White Sugar (FOB)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Reuters** | | Dec | 558.10-555.60 |
| | | Mar | 547.20-545.00 |
| May | 599.00-598.50 | May | 534.80-533.30 |
| Aug | 585.00-583.60 | Aug | 524.60-518.20 |
| Oct | 569.80-566.90 | | Volume: 73847 |

KOKI NAGAHAMA/GETTY IMAGES




# PureTech's royalties deal provides shot in the arm



***Jessica Newman* Market report**

PureTech Health enjoyed its best day since November after the biotherapeutics company said it had sold part of its royalty rights in Karuna Therapeutics' KarXT, a schizophrenia drug candidate, for up to $500 million.

PureTech's shares were in fine fettle on the back of the deal with Nasdaq-listed Royalty Pharma, leading the FTSE 250's biggest risers with a gain of 22p, or 10.8 per cent, to 225p.

The FTSE 250 company will receive an upfront cash payment of $100 million and up to $400 million in additional payment subject to achieving certain regulatory and commercial milestones.

As part of the deal, PureTech sold its right to receive a 3 per cent royalty from Karuna to Royalty Pharma on sales up to $2 billion annually, after which point Royalty Pharma will bag 33 per cent of royalties and PureTech will receive 67 per cent.

KarXT, which after two successful phase 3 trials is on track to be approved by the US regulators next year, will have a "significant impact on patients with schizophrenia if approved by the FDA," said Pablo Legorreta, Royalty Pharma's founder and chief executive. Analysts at Liberum said the deal is a "big win" for PureTech and reckons KarXT will have peak sales of $2.5 billion.

London's wider stock market remained weak as investors and traders gauged the potential implications of the Bank of England raising interest rates again to a 15-year high despite widespread fears about the health of the banking sector. As investors felt unsettled, the FTSE 100, closing in the red for the first day in four, retreated 67.24 points, or 0.9 per cent, to 7,499.60 and the FTSE 250 slipped 27.83 points, or 0.2 per cent, to 18,729.96.

Even though higher interest rates look good for banks, London lenders' shares headed south as concern about the sector was reignited after the US Treasury secretary said that a blanket guarantee for bank deposits was not on the cards. **Standard Chartered** and **HSBC** fell 19½p, or 3 per cent, to 632½p, and 16½p, or 2.9 per cent, to 548¼p, respectively.

Another reason for the FTSE 100's fall was a number of companies trading ex-dividend. These included **British American Tobacco**, which lost 165½p, or 5.5 per cent, to £28.23½, and **Schroders**, off 18p, or 3.9 per cent, to 445½p.

Outperforming the market, however, were the defensive stocks such as gold miners as investors flocked to the safe-haven precious metal. Tracking prices of the yellow metal higher, **Endeavour Mining** came away with one of the best large-cap gains, rising 52p, or 2.9 per cent, to £18.43. **Centamin**, which digs for gold in the deserts of Egypt, rose 4p, or 4.1 per cent, to 104p, and the Peruvian gold producer **Hochschild** added 3¾p, or 5.3 per cent, to 77p.

Gold wasn't the only defensive play. Water utilities, whose high dividend payments appeal to income funds with bond yields in retreat, advanced, with **Severn Trent**, the Coventry-based group, among the FTSE 100's biggest risers. It added 37p, or 1.3 per cent, to £28.33, and **United Utilities**, which provides water and wastewater services in northwest England, flowed 11½p, or 1.1 per cent, higher to £10.52½.

Other big movers included **Energean**, climbing 102p, or 9.1 per cent, to £12.19 after the oil and gas explorer said annual profits almost doubled to $421.6 million.

The City also cheered **C&C Group** after the maker of Bulmers cider said that it would reinstate its dividend after its full-year results — due in May — sending the shares 5½p, or 3.6 per cent, higher to 155¼p.

## Wall Street report

**Indices rose on hopes the Federal Reserve will pause rate rises to deal with turmoil in financial markets. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 75.14 points, or 0.2 per cent, to 32,105.25 and the S&P 500 was up 11.75, or 0.3 per cent, to 3,948.72.**

CONSUMER GOODS

## Profits served up on a plate

**Portmeirion Group recorded record annual sales last year as its boss hailed an "excellent" Christmas trading period and continued growth across global markets.**

**The Stoke-on-Trent-based homewares and fragrances business, which owns six brands including Portmeirion, established in 1960, plus Spode and Royal Worcester, had a 5 per cent rise in sales to £110.8 million in the year to the end of December and higher pre-tax profits of £7 million.**



Portmeirion Group hit record sales after an "excellent" Christmas

**Mike Raybould, Portmeirion's chief executive, said the company enjoyed particularly strong trading in the US, which now represents 40 per cent of the group's turnover.**

**"Fortunately we have a portfolio of really well-established brands," Raybould said, adding that the company experienced encouraging growth in international markets including South Korea, Canada and China.**

**Operating margins rose from 7.2 per cent to 7.8 per cent, and it is targeting a margin of 12.5 per cent in the long term. The board is recommending a final dividend of 12p per share, taking its full-year payout to 15.5p.**

**Portmeirion's shares closed 24½p, or 7 per cent, higher at 377p.**

## Toshiba set for private equity sale

**The board of Toshiba Corporation accepted a $15.2 billion buyout offer yesterday from a group led by the private equity firm Japan Industrial Partners, potentially drawing a line under years of upheaval.**

**If the deal goes ahead it would be the third-largest merger and acquisition transaction globally this year, and value Toshiba at 4,620 yen (£28.83) per share or 2 trillion yen in total. The company would be taken private and back in domestic hands after tension with overseas activist shareholders, who are estimated to own roughly a quarter of the company. The offer price would give just a 9.7 per cent premium over yesterday's closing price of 4,213 yen.**

**Toshiba, sponsor of the Brave Lupus rugby league team, said the board would not go as far as recommending shareholders to tender their shares, as the offer price was not high enough to do so. The price was lowered a few times from an initial offer of up to 5,500 yen per share, according to the filing.**

**Since 2015 Toshiba, which also owns 40.6 per cent of Kioxia Holdings, the memory chip maker, has been hit by accounting scandals and heavy losses, and came close to being delisted before becoming involved in a series of corporate governance scandals.**

**At one of its lowest points, it colluded with Japan's trade ministry to block overseas investors from gaining influence at its 2020 shareholder meeting.**

**The fallout from that debacle eventually led to the strategic review and buyout proposal.**

## The day's biggest movers

| Company | Change |
|---|---|
| **PureTech Health** Secures $500 million royalties deal | 10.8% |
| **Energean** Swings into annual profit | 9.1% |
| **Centamin** Tracks gold prices higher | 4.1% |
| **C&C Group** Upbeat trading update | 3.6% |
| **Endeavour Mining** Investors flock to "safe-haven" assets such as gold | 2.9% |
| **Informa** Morgan Stanley cuts rating to "equal weight" | -2.7% |
| **Kingfisher** Negative read-across from Wickes results | -2.8% |
| **Schroders** Trades ex-dividend | -3.9% |
| **British American Tobacco** Trades ex-dividend | -5.5% |
| **Inchcape** Disappointing annual results | -12.6% |

**London Grain Futures**

**LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mar | 236.00 | May | 194.00 | Jul | unq |
| Nov | 206.25 | Jan | unq | Volume: 1055 | |

**London Metal Exchange**

**(Official)**

| | Cash | 3mth | Dec 23 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Copper Gde A ($/tonne)** | 8915.0-8917.0 | 8916.0-8917.0 | 8860.0-8870.0 |
| **Lead ($/tonne)** | 2146.0-2146.5 | 2133.0-2134.0 | 2180.0-2185.0 |
| **Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)** | 2892.0-2894.0 | 2865.0-2867.0 | 2720.0-2725.0 |
| **Alum Hi Gde ($/tonne)** | 2264.0-2265.0 | 2312.5-2313.5 | 2520.0-2525.0 |
| **Nickel ($/tonne)** | 21850.0-21895.0 | 22050.0-22100.0 | 23770.0-23820.0 |
| **Tin ($/tonne)** | 23800.0-23850.0 | 23845.0-23850.0 | 15mth 23560.0-23610.0 |

## Gold/Precious metals (US dollars per ounce)

**Because of a technical issue, the gold fix prices are from Wednesday.**

**Bullion:** Open $1969.57

**Close** $1999.29-1999.65 High $2002.05

**Low** $1966.58

**AM** $1941.85 **PM** $1949.35

**Krugerrand** $1172.00-1244.00 (£953.43-1012.01)

**Platinum** $1092.00 (£888.35)

**Silver** $23.17 (£18.85)

**Palladium** $1721.11 (£1400.14)

## European money deposits %

| Currency | 1mth | 3mth | 6mth | 12mth |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Dollar** | 0.13 | 0.20 | 0.29 | 0.55 |
| **Sterling** | 4.19 | 4.39 | 4.70 | 0.81 |
| **Euro** | 0.10 | 0.15 | 0.20 | 0.50 |

## Money rates %

**Base Rates** Clearing Banks 4.25 ECB Refi 3.00 US Fed Fd 4.75-5.00

**Halifax Mortgage Rate** 5.74

**Treasury Bills (Dis)** Buy: 1 mth 3.868; 3 mth 4.087. Sell: 1 mth 3.840; 3 mth 3.964

| | 1 mth | 2 mth | 3 mth | 6 mth | 12 mth |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Interbank Rates** | 4.0919 | 0.0000 | 4.3873 | 4.69.97 | 0.0000 |
| **Eurodollar Deps** | 4.95-5.20 | 5.02-5.27 | 5.05-5.30 | 5.06-5.26 | 4.89-4.96 |

## Sterling spot and forward rates

| Mkt Rates for | Range | Close | 1 month | 3 month |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Copenhagen | 8.4010-8.4428 | 8.4250-8.4262 | 124ds | 371ds |
| Euro | 1.1340-1.1281 | 1.1311-1.1309 | 11pr | 34pr |
| Montreal | 1.6771-1.6865 | 1.6840-1.6842 | 3pr | 1pr |
| New York | 1.2266-1.2342 | 1.2292-1.2292 | 7pr | 18pr |
| Oslo | 12.667-12.829 | 12.733-12.736 | 110ds | 316ds |
| Stockholm | 12.588-12.720 | 12.650-12.653 | 232ds | 601ds |
| Tokyo | 160.62-161.82 | 160.62-160.65 | 65ds | 191ds |
| Zurich | 1.1233-1.1300 | 1.1246-1.1248 | 32ds | 93ds |

Premium = pr Discount = ds

## Dollar rates

| | |
|---|---|
| Australia | 1.4933-1.4934 |
| Canada | 1.3701-1.3702 |
| Denmark | 6.8540-6.8550 |
| Euro | 0.9201-0.9202 |
| Hong Kong | 7.8499-7.8500 |
| Japan | 130.68-130.69 |
| Malaysia | 4.4155-4.4205 |
| Norway | 10.358-10.363 |
| Singapore | 1.3256-1.3257 |
| Sweden | 10.291-10.294 |
| Switzerland | 0.9149-0.9150 |

## Other Sterling

| | |
|---|---|
| Argentina peso | 252.91-252.93 |
| Australia dollar | 1.8355-1.8357 |
| Bahrain dinar | 0.4605-0.4673 |
| Brazil real | 6.4822-6.4859 |
| Euro | 1.1309-1.1311 |
| Hong Kong dollar | 9.6485-9.6495 |
| India rupee | 101.01-101.01 |
| Indonesia rupiah | 18558-18575 |
| Kuwait dinar KD | 0.3753-0.3775 |
| Malaysia ringgit | 5.4374-5.4436 |
| New Zealand dollar | 1.9619-1.9623 |
| Singapore dollar | 1.6294-1.6296 |
| S Africa rand | 22.213-22.224 |
| U A E dirham | 4.5165-4.5190 |

## Exchange rates

| | Bid | Change |
|---|---|---|
| Australia $ | 1.834 | |
| Canada $ | 1.683 | |
| Denmark Kr | 8.429 | -0.01 |
| Euro € | 1.131 | |
| Hong Kong $ | 9.672 | +0.07 |
| Hungary | 432.808 | -7.29 |
| Indonesia | 18907.330 | +138.75 |
| Israel Shk | 4.369 | -0.06 |
| Japan Yen | 161.405 | -0.87 |
| New Zealand $ | 1.961 | -0.01 |
| Norway Kr | 12.678 | -0.15 |
| Poland | 5.295 | -0.02 |
| Russia | 93.797 | -0.45 |
| S Africa Rd | 22.233 | -0.18 |
| Sweden Kr | 12.643 | -0.01 |
| Switzerland Fr | 1.127 | |
| Turkey Lira | 23.468 | +0.18 |
| USA $ | 1.232 | +0.01 |

**Rates supplied by Morningstar**

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# The Times unit trust information service

**ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS**
**Inv Serv: 020 7065 1400 Helpline: 0800 317 573**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gilt Yield A | 206.01 | | 0.27 | |
| Strategic Bond Fund | 154.94 | | 1.99 | |
| UK Corp Bond C | 104.79 | | 0.78 | 3.87 |
| UK Eqty C | 6317.26 | | 14.91 | 3.28 |
| UK Eqty Inc A | 316.83 | | 0.36 | |
| UK Gwth A | 7876.04 | | 18.22 | |
| UK Index A Inc | 1423.81 | | 5.83 | 3.01 |
| UK Mid Cap A | 4654.61 | | 11.35 | |

**ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD**
**0800 092 2051**
**Authorised Inv Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Capital R Acc | 2124.34 | | 13.49 | |
| Euro Opps R Acc | 91.26 | | 0.48 | |
| Euro Opps R Inc | 85.36 | | 0.46 | |
| European Growth R Acc | 397.95 | | 2.97 | |
| Global Energy R Acc | 39.87 | | 0.56 | 1.14 |
| Global Growth R Acc | 331.60 | | 2.35 | |
| Global Income R Acc | 150.20 | | 1.80 | |
| Global Income R Inc | 94.42 | | 1.14 | |
| Global Select R Acc | 146.30 | | 1.03 | |
| High Income R Inc | 62.06 | | 0.14 | |
| Income R Acc | 501.18 | | 3.19 | |
| Income R Inc | 219.71 | | 1.40 | |
| Monthly Dist R Inc | 63.39 | | 0.22 | |
| Strategic Assets R Acc | 88.47 | | 0.22 | |
| Strategic Bond R M Acc | 95.49 | | 0.50 | |
| Strategic Bond R M Inc | 50.11 | | 0.26 | |
| Strategic Bond R Q Acc | 95.32 | | 0.51 | |
| Strategic Bond R Q Inc | 49.88 | | 0.26 | |
| UK Growth R Acc | 688.49 | | 5.97 | |
| UK Smaller Cos R Acc | 1814.70 | | 0.65 | |
| UK Special Sits R Acc | 675.95 | | 6.79 | |

**AXA FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD**
**Dling: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Equity Inc | 572.40 | | 2.70 | 4.43 |
| Gilt Acc | 201.30 | 211.80 | 0.10 | |
| Gilt Inc | 74.35 | 78.24 | 0.39 | |
| Health Acc | 2865.00 | | 35.00 | |
| Jap Smlr Co Ac | 62.56 | 66.09 | 0.19 | 0.30 |
| Managed Inc | 138.30 | | | 4.20 |
| Monthly Inc Inc | 220.30 | | 0.50 | 4.42 |
| UK Growth Inc | 210.10 | | 0.30 | 0.64 |
| UK Select Opps Inc | 1852.00 | | | 1.03 |
| UK Sml Cos Inc | 254.70 | | 0.50 | 0.04 |

**AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD**
**Admin & Enq 0117 989 0808**
**AXA Trusts**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gen Acc | 2101.00 | | 6.00 | 2.64 |
| Gen Inc | 1079.00 | | 2.00 | 2.70 |

**UK/Global Investment Companies**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Euro Acc A | 234.70 | | | |
| Extra Inc Inc B | 86.74 | | 0.24 | 1.16 |
| Global Gwth Acc R | 288.10 | | 4.10 | 0.52 |
| Japan Acc A | 162.30 | | 2.20 | |
| Pac Gwth Acc A | 479.80 | | 17.60 | |

**CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD**
**08457 46 46 46**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| European Gwth | 209.20 | | 0.80 | |
| Sus Leaders | 763.30 | | 3.30 | |
| UK Growth | 606.50 | | 2.30 | |
| UK Income | 206.40 | | 0.60 | |

**CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD**
**0870 606 6402**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beacon Inv | 84.88 | | 0.35 | 0.01 |

**Dealing: 020 7426 6232**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Winchester | 3519.22 | | 10.15 | 0.86 |

**EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD**
**0800 358 3010**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Resp & Sust Sterling Bond | 85.67 | | 0.34 | 4.01 |
| Resp & Sust Eurp Eq | 321.70 | | 2.20 | |
| Resp & Sust Glbl Eq | 322.40 | | 2.80 | |
| Resp & Sust Mgd Income | 119.80 | | 0.40 | |
| Resp & Sust UK Eq | 214.60 | | 0.60 | 1.52 |
| Resp & Sust UK Equity Opps | 270.50 | | 1.10 | 1.13 |

**F & C FUND MANAGEMENT LTD (OEICS)**
**Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083**
**Share Class 1 - Retail**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corporate Bd | 49.99 | | 0.31 | |
| Emerging Mkts | 116.50 | | 0.50 | |
| Euro Gwth & Inc 1 | 1224.00 | | 3.00 | |
| Extra Inc Bond | 43.43 | | 0.06 | |
| FTSE All-Shr Track | 420.30 | | 1.60 | |
| Global Gwth SC1 | 295.20 | | 4.00 | |
| High Inc Trst | 10.96 | 11.57 | 0.04 | |
| Max Inc Bond | 42.61 | | 0.03 | |
| Multi Man Caut | 70.41 | | | 3.18 |
| Multi Man Distr | 60.44 | | | 3.37 |
| North Amer | 796.00 | | 15.50 | |
| Pacific Gwth | 488.30 | | 6.70 | 0.04 |
| Strategic Bd | 194.20 | | 0.10 | |
| UK Equity | 3446.00 | | 2.00 | 1.27 |
| UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 | 658.50 | | | |
| UK Gwth & Inc Dist | 234.70 | | | |
| UK Smaller Cos | 1002.00 | | 2.00 | |

**FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL**
**Private Clnts 0800 414161 Broker Dlgs 0800 414181**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Amer Spec Sits | 2146.00 | | 32.00 | |
| American | 4994.00 | | 60.00 | |
| Euro Opps | 583.00 | | 1.10 | |
| European | 3409.00 | | 3.00 | |
| Extra Income | 22.42 | | 0.06 | 5.29 |
| Glob Spec Sits | 5318.00 | | 42.00 | |
| Global Focus | 2846.00 | | 25.00 | |
| International | 149.50 | | 0.20 | 0.08 |
| Japan | 545.10 | | 5.70 | |
| Moneybldr Bal | 43.17 | | 0.02 | |
| Moneybldr Glob | 327.60 | 327.60 | 0.10 | 0.21 |
| Moneybldr Gwth | 76.12 | | 0.95 | 2.97 |
| Moneybldr Inc | 29.23 | | 0.01 | |
| Moneybldr UK Ind | 126.74 | | 0.49 | |
| Special Sits | 4373.00 | | 22.00 | |
| Wealthbuilder | 69.75 | 72.18 | 0.53 | |

**HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD**
**01296 386 386**
**Authorised Inv Funds**
**Share Class `C**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corporate Bond | 32.58 | | 0.16 | |
| Ethical | 107.50 | | 1.00 | |
| European | 109.80 | | 0.30 | |
| Far Eastern | 114.00 | | 1.30 | 1.77 |
| Fund of Inv Tst | 131.50 | | 0.30 | |
| Intl Gwth | 122.20 | | 1.40 | |
| Japanese | 68.14 | | 0.28 | |
| North Amer | 143.50 | | 2.80 | |
| Smaller Cos | 101.50 | | | |
| Special Sits | 49.01 | | 0.25 | |
| UK Equity Inc | 89.36 | | 0.35 | |
| UK FTSE 100 IT | 68.99 | | 0.29 | |
| UK FTSE All-S IT | 77.57 | | 0.28 | |
| UK Growth | 80.99 | | 0.25 | |

**HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD**
**Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6**
**HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Amer Ind Acc | 884.52 | | 17.44 | |
| Amer Ind Inc | 717.77 | | 14.16 | |
| Euro Ind Acc | 1180.21 | | 1.91 | |
| Euro Ind Inc | 754.06 | | 1.21 | |
| FTSE 100 Ind Acc | 273.20 | | 1.22 | |
| FTSE 100 Ind Inc | 124.13 | | 0.55 | |
| FTSE 250 Ind Acc | 279.52 | | 0.21 | |
| FTSE 250 Ind Inc | 171.66 | | 0.13 | |
| FTSE All-S Acc | 697.26 | | 1.12 | |
| FTSE All-S Inc | 352.51 | | 0.57 | |
| Jap Ind Acc | 140.19 | | 0.87 | |
| Jap Ind Inc | 109.26 | | 0.68 | |
| Pac Ind Acc | 502.07 | | 3.40 | 2.58 |
| Pac Ind Inc | 316.55 | | 2.13 | 2.64 |

**HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Balanced Acc | 238.45 | | 0.88 | |
| Balanced Inc | 151.95 | | 0.14 | |
| Corp Bd Acc | 267.37 | | 1.26 | |
| Corp Bd Inc | 103.74 | | 0.49 | |
| Gilt & Fd Int Acc | 497.78 | | 1.62 | |
| Gilt & Fd Int Inc | 74.17 | | 0.24 | |
| Income Acc | 700.74 | | 1.79 | |
| Income Inc | 287.51 | | 0.73 | |
| Monthly Inc Acc | 313.41 | | 0.77 | 3.21 |
| Monthly Inc Inc | 126.86 | | 0.11 | |
| UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc | 143.00 | | 0.41 | |
| UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc | 63.12 | | 0.18 | |
| UK Gth & Inc Acc | 143.00 | | 0.41 | |
| UK Gth & Inc Inc | 63.12 | | 0.18 | |

**HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| American Index Retail Acc | 884.52 | | 17.44 | |
| American Index Retail Inc | 717.77 | | 14.16 | |
| Asian Gth Acc | 147.77 | | 0.07 | |
| Asian Gth Inc | 130.99 | | 0.06 | |
| Chinese Eq Acc | 513.81 | | 0.27 | |
| Chinese Eq Inc | 434.76 | | 0.22 | |
| Euro Gth Acc | 973.97 | | 4.05 | |
| Euro Gth Inc | 817.05 | | 3.39 | |

**IGNIS ASSET MGMT**
**Dlg: 0141 222 8282**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| American Gth Inc | 322.55 | 340.42 | 3.34 | |
| Balanced Growth | 262.17 | 276.69 | 0.93 | 1.52 |
| Balanced Growth Acc | 393.13 | 414.92 | 1.40 | 1.49 |
| Corporate Bond | 99.69 | | 0.89 | 4.77 |
| European Growth | 403.88 | 426.26 | 3.57 | 2.18 |
| European Growth Acc | 475.71 | 502.07 | 4.21 | 2.24 |
| Glob Gwth | 331.53 | 349.90 | 3.09 | |
| Higher Yield | 83.98 | 88.64 | 0.29 | |
| Higher Yield Acc | 275.04 | 290.28 | 0.92 | |
| Japan | 49.06 | 51.78 | 0.03 | |
| Managed | 130.89 | 138.15 | 0.06 | 0.66 |
| Managed Trust | 71.96 | 76.96 | 0.17 | |
| Mngd Pfolio Inc | 95.54 | 100.84 | 0.11 | 0.58 |
| Pacific Grth | 498.71 | 526.34 | 2.81 | 1.34 |
| Smaller Comp | 756.24 | 798.14 | 1.64 | 0.15 |
| Smaller Cos | 628.94 | 663.79 | 1.36 | 0.21 |

**INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD**
**Client Servs: 0207 163 4000**
**Insight Investment Multi-Manager Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Well Bldr Bal Acc | 96.05 | | 0.32 | |
| Well Bldr Gwth Acc | 93.79 | | 0.36 | |

**INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD**
**Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677**
**Brkr Serv: 0800 028 2121**
**INVESCO Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| UK Str Inc N/Trl | 323.57 | | 0.12 | 7.05 |

**INVESCO PERPETUAL Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Childrens Acc | 452.29 | | 0.27 | |
| Corp Bond Acc | 199.01 | | 1.10 | 2.82 |
| High Income Inc | 309.21 | | 0.50 | |
| Income & Grth Inc | 404.82 | | 1.51 | |
| Income Inc | 1221.32 | | 1.44 | |
| Money Acc | 92.50 | | 0.03 | 1.12 |
| Monthly Inc Plus Inc | 90.82 | | 0.35 | |
| UK Aggressive Inc | 154.28 | | 0.24 | 3.15 |
| UK Growth Acc | 880.59 | | 1.09 | |
| UK Sml Cos Eqty Acc | 1326.26 | | 8.15 | |
| UK Sml Cos Gwth | 82.54 | | 0.04 | |

**INVESTEC FUND MGRS**
**Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900**
**OEIC Series i,ii,iii, & iv**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| American A Acc | 658.09 | | 8.24 | |
| Asia ex Japan A Acc | 767.67 | | 14.19 | |
| Capital Accumulator A Acc | 231.48 | | 3.81 | |
| Cautious Managed A Acc | 376.65 | | 0.76 | |
| Cautious Managed A Inc | 237.14 | | 0.48 | |
| Diversified Growth A Acc | 129.69 | | 0.57 | |
| Diversified Growth A Inc | 137.34 | | 0.61 | |
| Diversified Income A Acc | 320.77 | | 1.10 | |
| Diversified Income A Inc | 68.13 | | 0.23 | |
| Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc | 112.75 | | 0.67 | |
| Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc Gross | 125.82 | | 0.20 | |
| Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Inc | 64.46 | | 0.38 | |
| Emerging Mkts Equity A Acc | 147.51 | | 1.70 | |
| Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc | 182.06 | | 1.28 | |
| Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Inc | 70.54 | | 0.49 | |
| Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross I Acc | 220.49 | | 0.05 | 5.42 |
| Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc | 134.24 | | 1.25 | |
| Global Bond A Acc | 139.30 | | 4.03 | |
| Global Bond A Inc | 109.33 | | 3.00 | |
| Global Bond I Gross Inc | 1167.00 | | 29.78 | |
| Global Dynamic A Acc | 193.61 | | 1.95 | 0.47 |
| Global Energy A Acc | 170.97 | | 1.14 | |
| Global Equity A Acc | 226.36 | | 1.72 | |
| Global Franchise A Acc | 301.10 | | 1.78 | |
| Global Free Enterprise A Acc | 1208.94 | | 2.34 | |
| Global Gold A Acc | 195.63 | | 4.25 | 0.53 |
| Global Special Situations A Acc | 311.48 | | 6.29 | |
| Global Special Situations A Inc | 240.93 | | 4.87 | |
| Managed Growth A Acc | 290.56 | | 1.90 | |
| Monthly High Income A Acc | 243.45 | | 0.43 | |
| Monthly High Income A Inc | 63.17 | | 0.01 | |
| Multi-Asset Protector A Acc | 167.03 | | 0.10 | |
| Strategic Bond A Acc | 244.54 | | 0.19 | |
| Strategic Bond A Inc | 119.47 | | 0.09 | |
| Target Return A Acc | 102.03 | | 0.44 | 0.82 |
| Target Return A Inc | 87.63 | | 0.01 | 0.87 |
| UK Alpha A Acc | 2622.22 | | 10.84 | |
| UK Blue Chip A Acc | 770.11 | | 3.15 | |
| UK Smaller Companies A Acc | 4605.23 | | 36.34 | |
| UK Smaller Companies A Inc | 4130.61 | | 32.59 | |
| UK Special Situations A Acc | 1371.74 | | 15.08 | |
| UK Special Situations A Inc | 491.73 | | 5.40 | |

**For ISIS Asset Mgmt see F&C Fd Mgmt Ltd (OEICS)**

**JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS**
**Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dlng: 0845 946 4646**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| All Stks Credit A Inc | 115.10 | | 0.50 | 1.88 |
| Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc | 78.64 | | 0.34 | 5.87 |
| Cautious Man Fd A Acc | 285.20 | | 1.00 | |
| Cautious Man Fd A Inc | 140.70 | | 0.50 | |
| China Opp Fund A Acc | 1192.00 | | 22.00 | |
| Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc | 192.50 | | 1.40 | 0.73 |
| Erpn Grth Fund A Acc | 296.80 | | 0.10 | |
| Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc | 2241.00 | | 6.00 | |
| Fix Int Mnthly Inc Fd Acc | 28.71 | | 0.24 | |
| Global Equity Fund Acc | 4161.00 | | 43.00 | |
| Global Equity Income A Inc | 64.72 | | 0.33 | |
| Global Tech A Acc | 2919.00 | | 27.00 | |
| Instl UK Idx Opps A Acc | 112.42 | | 0.46 | |
| M-Asset Abs Ret A Acc | 161.60 | | 0.50 | |
| M-Man Active Fd A Acc | 252.50 | | 0.60 | |
| M-Man Inc Grth A Inc | 145.20 | | 0.30 | |
| M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc | 186.60 | | 0.30 | |
| Sterling Bond U Trst Acc | 205.90 | | 1.00 | 1.62 |
| Sterling Bond U Trst Inc | 56.24 | | 0.27 | 1.64 |
| Strategic Bond A Inc | 105.20 | | 1.10 | |
| UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc | 167.70 | | | |
| UK Alpha Fund A Acc | 135.50 | | 0.40 | |
| UK Irsh Sm Co Fd A Acc | 742.50 | | 1.70 | |
| UK Property A Acc | 264.95 | 278.15 | 0.01 | 2.63 |
| UK Property A Inc | 105.80 | 111.07 | | 2.68 |
| US Growth Fund A Acc | 1680.00 | | 19.00 | |
| US Sm Cos A Acc | 976.20 | | 14.00 | |

**JP MORGAN ASSET MGMT**
**OEIC**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Asia A Acc | 259.00 | | 2.20 | |
| Emerging Mkts | 261.50 | | 3.00 | |
| Eur Dyn (ex-UK) A Acc | 270.30 | | 4.70 | |
| Euro Smllr Cos | 864.00 | | 17.40 | |
| Europe A Acc | 1734.00 | | 35.00 | |
| Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Acc | 117.30 | | 1.10 | 5.30 |
| Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Inc | 30.89 | | 0.29 | 5.45 |
| Gl ex-UK Bd A Acc | 257.40 | | 0.70 | 0.07 |
| Gl ex-UK Bd A Inc | 196.80 | | 0.50 | 0.08 |
| Glb Fins A Acc | 1077.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Global A Acc | 2049.00 | | 11.00 | |
| Japan A Acc | 516.80 | | 6.20 | |
| Multi-Man Tst A Acc | 1268.00 | | 16.00 | |
| Multi-Man Tst A Inc | 1127.00 | | 15.00 | |
| Nat Resources | 951.20 | | 17.30 | 2.50 |
| New Europe A | 155.70 | | 12.00 | 2.11 |
| Portfolio | 295.60 | | 0.40 | 0.98 |
| Stg Corp Bd A Acc | 85.59 | | 0.13 | |
| Stg Corp Bd A Inc | 48.30 | | 0.08 | |
| UK Act 350 A Acc | 199.00 | | 2.20 | |
| UK Dynamic Acc | 206.70 | | 4.30 | 2.07 |
| UK Dynamic Inc | 148.20 | | 3.10 | 2.03 |
| UK Equity A Acc | 401.90 | | 0.60 | 3.45 |
| UK Equity A Inc | 46.44 | | 0.07 | 3.49 |
| UK Eqy & Bd Inc Acc | 167.10 | | 0.20 | |
| UK Eqy & Bd Inc Inc | 90.29 | | 0.48 | |
| UK Higher Inc A Acc | 1132.00 | | 7.00 | |
| UK Higher Inc A Inc | 531.30 | | 2.00 | |
| UK Sm Cos A Acc | 563.30 | | 7.00 | |
| UK Str Eq Inc A Acc | 197.90 | | 3.50 | |
| UK Str Eq Inc A Inc | 100.50 | | 1.77 | |
| US A Acc | 1036.00 | | 25.00 | |

**JUPITER UT MGRS LTD**
**020 7581 3020**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Absolute Return | 32.02 | | 0.15 | |
| Distribution and Growth | 96.14 | | 0.08 | |
| Emg Euro Opps | 145.34 | | 31.23 | |
| Euro Special Sits | 458.00 | | 1.16 | |
| European | 2904.73 | | 1.85 | |
| Financial Opps | 676.96 | | 16.07 | 0.19 |
| Income Trust | 503.43 | | 5.58 | |
| Merlin Bal (Acc) | 229.12 | | 1.28 | |
| Merlin Gwth (Acc) | 527.68 | | 5.29 | |
| Merlin Inc (Acc) | 339.79 | | 0.08 | |
| Merlin Wwide (Inc) | 371.73 | | 4.17 | |
| UK Growth | 251.39 | | 0.15 | |
| UK Special Sits (Inc) | 207.35 | | 2.24 | |

**LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD**
**Enquiries: 0870 050 0955 Dealing: 0870 050 0956**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Equity Acc | 2616.00 | 2639.00 | 8.00 | 2.12 |
| Equity Dist | 893.80 | 902.00 | 2.70 | 2.15 |
| Euro Ind Acc | 520.60 | | 1.00 | |
| Euro Ind Inc | 341.10 | | 0.60 | |
| Fixed Int Acc | 131.40 | | 0.80 | |
| Fixed Int Dist | 61.28 | | 0.35 | |
| Glob Gwth Acc | 243.90 | 243.90 | 1.30 | 1.15 |
| Glob Health Acc | 105.40 | | 0.90 | |
| Glob Tech Acc | 92.74 | | 0.63 | |
| Gwth Tst Acc | 106.00 | 106.50 | 1.00 | 0.17 |
| High Inc Acc | 121.70 | | 0.20 | 5.13 |
| Japan Ind Acc | 68.44 | | 0.42 | |
| Pacific Ind Acc | 201.20 | | 1.60 | 2.97 |
| UK 100 Ind Acc | 180.90 | 180.90 | 0.90 | 3.19 |
| UK Active Opps Acc | 249.90 | 252.90 | 0.10 | |
| UK Index Acc | 339.70 | | 1.30 | |
| UK Index Dist | 163.60 | | 0.70 | |
| US Ind Acc | 787.40 | | 6.30 | |
| Worldwide Acc | 332.20 | | 0.80 | |

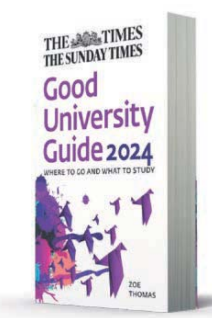
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**M & G SECURITIES**
**Enq: 0800 390 390 Dealing Line: 0800 328 3196**
**Authorised Inv Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Charifund Inc | 1452.94 | | 8.34 | 5.41 |

**Sterling Class A Investment Funds 1**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Euro Smlr Cos Acc | 525.29 | | 3.39 | |
| Euro Smlr Cos Inc | 462.50 | | 3.00 | 0.69 |

**Sterling Class A Investment Funds 2**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Extra Income Inc | 681.87 | | 2.43 | 4.92 |
| Gilt & Fxd Int Inc | 77.06 | | 0.60 | 2.01 |
| Gl Hi Yd Bd Inc | 39.44 | | 0.07 | |
| Index Linked Bd Inc | 116.11 | | 0.43 | |
| Index Trckr Inc | 75.29 | | 0.29 | 3.59 |
| Short Dated Corp Bd Inc | 24.73 | | 0.06 | |
| UK Select A Inc | 2681.27 | | 5.66 | |

**Sterling Class A Investment Funds 3**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corp Bd A Inc | 33.90 | | 0.21 | 3.58 |
| Dividend Inc | 52.67 | | 0.88 | |
| Recovery A Inc | 106.28 | | 0.29 | |
| Sml Cos Inc | 325.93 | | 0.01 | |

**Sterling Class A Investment Funds 4**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Episode Allocation A Inc | 137.17 | | 0.87 | |

**MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD**
**0808 005 5555**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| High Income | 86.16 | 86.16 | 0.03 | |
| High Income Acc | 241.00 | 241.00 | 0.10 | |
| UK 100 Comp Acc | 452.70 | 452.70 | 1.80 | |
| UK 100 Cos | 222.40 | 222.40 | 0.90 | |
| UK Select Pflo | 336.10 | 336.10 | 2.90 | |
| UK Selection Port Acc | 695.50 | 695.50 | 5.90 | |
| Worldwide Mgd Acc | 926.40 | 926.40 | 2.30 | |
| Wwide Mgd | 541.90 | 541.90 | 1.40 | 1.30 |

**MORGAN STANLEY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD**
**Enquires: 0800 0961 962**
**The Morgan Stanley Funds (UK)**
**Class A Shares**
**Equity**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dev Opp Fund F Acc | 769.71 | | 1.32 | |
| Dev Opp Fund I Acc | 765.63 | | 1.30 | |
| Glob Bal Inc F F Acc | 916.40 | | 1.25 | 5.33 |
| Glob Bal Inc F F Inc | 848.52 | | 1.16 | |
| Glob Bal Inc F I Acc | 915.03 | | 1.25 | 5.35 |
| Glob Bal Inc F I Inc | 847.13 | | 1.16 | 5.56 |
| Glob Bal Sust F F Acc | 927.89 | | 1.21 | 1.24 |
| Glob Bal Sust F F Inc | 912.82 | | 1.19 | 1.25 |
| Glob Bal Sust F I Acc | 926.71 | | 1.21 | 1.18 |
| Glob Bal Sust F I Inc | 912.55 | | 1.19 | 1.17 |
| Glob Br Eq Inc Fund F Inc | 1279.92 | | 6.29 | |
| Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Acc | 1768.91 | | 8.71 | |
| Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Inc | 1369.47 | | 6.75 | |
| Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) | 1514.54 | | 6.88 | |
| Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) | 13223.03 | | 77.22 | |
| Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) | 1445.10 | | 6.57 | |
| Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) | 3619.94 | | 21.14 | |
| Glob Ins Fund F Acc | 516.11 | | 5.79 | |
| Glob Ins Fund F Inc | 516.11 | | 5.79 | |
| Glob Ins Fund I Acc | 513.68 | | 5.76 | |
| Glob Ins Fund I Inc | 513.68 | | 5.77 | |
| Glob Sust Fund F Acc (PH) | 1119.48 | | 5.61 | |
| Glob Sust Fund F Inc | 1206.04 | | 8.14 | |
| Glob Sust Fund I Acc | 1222.93 | | 8.26 | |
| Glob Sust Fund I Acc (PH) | 1118.21 | | 5.61 | |
| Glob Sustain Fund F Acc | 1229.57 | | 8.30 | |
| Stg Corp Bond F F Acc | 120.22 | | 0.76 | |
| Stg Corp Bond F F Inc | 94.63 | | 0.60 | |
| Stg Corp Bond F I Acc | 2556.40 | | 16.05 | |
| Stg Corp Bond F I Inc | 1334.25 | | 8.38 | |
| Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Acc | 928.39 | | 4.64 | 2.47 |
| Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Inc | 890.87 | | 4.45 | 2.53 |
| Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Acc | 924.18 | | 4.61 | 2.28 |
| Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Inc | 890.42 | | 4.44 | 2.31 |
| US Adv F F Acc | 1411.75 | | 27.08 | |
| US Adv F F Acc (PH) | 793.13 | | 13.44 | |
| US Adv F I Acc | 1501.62 | | 28.82 | |
| US Adv F I Acc (PH) | 831.16 | | 14.08 | |

**SANTANDER UNIT TST MGRS**
**08457 413002**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bal Pfolio Inc | 110.50 | | 0.40 | |
| Bal Port Gwth Acc | 229.60 | | 0.10 | |
| Equity Inc Inc | 194.10 | | 1.70 | |
| N&P UK Gwth Inc | 182.80 | | 0.10 | 3.09 |
| Stkmkt 100 Tkr | 258.30 | 258.30 | 0.30 | |
| UK Growth Acc | 446.30 | | 0.50 | |
| UK Growth Inc | 238.40 | | 0.30 | |

**SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MNGRS LTD**
**0141 248 6100**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| European Inc | 1777.00 | 1873.48 | 4.40 | |
| Far Eastern Inc | 584.69 | 617.09 | 0.73 | |
| Intl Growth Inc | 380.56 | 400.59 | 0.02 | 0.75 |
| Japanese Inc | 41.85 | 41.85 | 0.43 | |
| Mutual European | 2762.93 | 2908.99 | 21.63 | |
| Mutual Far Eastern | 934.77 | 986.56 | 11.73 | 0.90 |
| Mutual North Am | 1983.00 | 2092.88 | 6.23 | 0.24 |
| Mutual UK Eq | 1385.55 | 1462.32 | 7.42 | |
| Nth American Inc | 1227.65 | 1295.67 | 7.28 | |
| UK Equity Inc | 545.43 | 575.65 | 2.62 | |

**SCOTTISH WIDOWS UNIT TRUST MGRS**
**0845 300 2244**
**Authorised Inv Funds (OEICs)**
**OEIC A Class**
**Managed Investment Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bal Port A Acc | 237.60 | | 0.80 | |
| Caut Port A Acc | 207.10 | | 0.30 | 0.43 |
| Caut Port A Inc | 152.00 | | 0.30 | 0.60 |
| Opps Port A Acc | 280.20 | | 1.30 | |
| Prog Port A Acc | 266.60 | | 1.10 | |

**Overseas Growth Investment Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eur Sel Gth A Acc | 3461.00 | | 27.00 | |

**Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| UK Trkr A Acc | 381.30 | | 1.60 | |
| UK Trkr A Inc | 191.20 | | 0.80 | |

**UK and Income Investment Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corp Bond A Acc | 284.30 | | 0.20 | |
| Corp Bond A Inc | 105.20 | | | |
| Envir Invtr A Acc | 381.20 | | 3.20 | 1.28 |
| Hi Inc Bond A Ac | 227.90 | | 0.50 | 5.22 |
| Hi Inc Bond A Inc | 67.44 | | 0.17 | 5.37 |
| Hi Res A Acc | 377.70 | | 1.00 | |
| Hi Res A Inc | 117.20 | | 0.40 | |
| Safety Plus A Acc | 40.49 | | | |
| Strat Inc A Acc | 187.00 | | 0.10 | |
| Strat Inc A Inc | 82.00 | | 0.08 | 3.23 |
| UK Gwth A Acc | 194.30 | | 0.70 | |
| UK Sel Gwth A Acc | 2297.00 | | | |

**OEIC B Class**
**Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| UK Trkr B Acc | 421.10 | | 1.90 | |
| UK Trkr B Inc | 190.20 | | 0.90 | |

**UK and Income Investment Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corp Bond B Acc | 370.70 | | 0.90 | |
| Corp Bond B Inc | 136.30 | | 0.30 | |
| UK Gwth B Acc | 205.60 | | 0.30 | 1.79 |
| UK Sel Gwth B Acc | 2481.00 | | | 1.09 |

**OEIC C Class**
**UK and Income Investment Funds**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| UK Gth C Inc | 125.30 | | 0.40 | |
| UK Sel Gwth C Acc | 2598.00 | | | 1.29 |

**STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENTS**
**0845 279 3003**
**Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Shares**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| AAA Inc CAT Acc | 89.34 | | 0.12 | 1.38 |
| AAA Inc CAT Inc | 50.10 | | 0.07 | 1.39 |
| AAA Income Acc | 97.32 | | 0.13 | |
| Amer Eq Gth Acc | 196.30 | | 3.80 | |
| Corp Bond Acc | 155.60 | | 0.80 | |
| Corp Bond Inc | 51.66 | | 0.25 | |
| Euro Eq Gth Acc | 262.10 | | 3.90 | |
| Glb Advtg CAT Acc | 146.70 | | 0.10 | |
| Glob Advtg Acc | 193.80 | | | |
| Glob Eq Uncstrd Acc | 153.00 | | 1.70 | |
| Higher Inc Acc | 143.00 | | 0.20 | 4.40 |
| Higher Inc Inc | 44.08 | | 0.07 | 4.52 |
| Japan Eq Gth Acc | 127.40 | | | |
| Managed Acc | 352.00 | | 2.80 | |
| Select Inc Acc | 91.51 | | | 2.21 |
| Select Inc Inc | 51.26 | | 0.26 | 2.21 |
| UK Eq Gth Acc | 372.70 | | 1.70 | |
| UK Eq Hi Alpha | 230.00 | | 1.00 | |
| UK Eq Hi Inc Acc | 262.40 | | 0.80 | |
| UK Eq Hi Inc Inc | 71.02 | | 0.22 | |
| UK Ethical Acc | 195.50 | | 0.40 | |
| UK Opps Acc | 234.40 | | | |
| UK Opps Inc | 211.70 | | | |
| UK Smlr Cos Acc | 738.90 | | 1.30 | |

**SVS BROWN SHIPLEY FUNDS**
**Enquiries:0141 222 1151**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Balanced A Acc | 132.58 | | 0.32 | |
| Balanced A Inc | 117.83 | | 0.28 | |
| Cautious A Acc | 111.42 | | 0.33 | |
| Cautious A Inc | 95.86 | | 0.29 | |
| Dynamic A Acc | 321.29 | | 1.40 | |
| Dynamic A Inc | 288.28 | | 1.26 | |
| Growth A Acc | 332.13 | | 1.16 | |
| Income A Acc | 244.47 | | 0.19 | |
| Sterling Bond Acc | 242.37 | | 0.28 | |
| Sterling Bond Inc | 97.00 | | 0.11 | |

**THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS**
**Client Serv: 0800 0683000**
**Intermediary Serv: 0800 0684000**
**Institutional Shares (Class 2) (500000 GBP)**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Threadneedle UK Eq Opps Ins Inc | 123.81 | | 0.17 | |

**Retail Shares (Class 1)**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Threadneedle HY Bd Rtl Inc | 36.14 | | 0.03 | 4.27 |
| Threadneedle Mthly Etr Inc Rtl Inc | 76.75 | | | |
| Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Ins Inc | 53.72 | | 0.24 | |
| Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Rtl Inc | 53.65 | | 0.24 | |
| Threadneedle Stg Bd Ret Inc | 44.81 | | 0.26 | 1.38 |
| Threadneedle Strat Bd Ret | 40.66 | | 0.07 | |
| Threadneedle UK Eq Inc Rtl Inc | 95.99 | | 0.07 | |
| Threadneedle UK Growth & Inc Rtl Inc | 88.48 | | 0.02 | |
| Threadneedle UK Insti Rtl | 177.70 | | 0.43 | |
| Threadneedle UK Mthly Inc Rtl Inc | 66.93 | | 0.22 | |
| Threadneedle UK Rtl Inc | 133.51 | | 0.75 | |
| Threadneedle UK Smaller Coms Rtl Inc | 339.45 | | 0.32 | |

**For Resolution see Ignis**
**TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED**

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| British | 909.60 | 909.60 | 7.10 | |
| European | 210.70 | 219.40 | 1.00 | |

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡Middle price; . . . No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital; @ Exit charge

## British funds

**Index-linked**

| 12 month High | Low | Stock | Price (£) | +/– | Int Yld % | Grs rd yld |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 389.95 | 359.04 | Tr IL 2½% 24 * | 373.78 | + .19 | 1.45 | 0.37 |
| 111.01 | 99.31 | Tr IL 0⅛% 24 | 99.78 | + .02 | ... | 0.34 |
| 116.38 | 96.90 | Tr IL 0⅛% 26 | 100.69 | + .28 | ... | –0.10 |
| 129.46 | 99.85 | Tr IL 1¼% 27 | 107.01 | + .43 | 1.28 | –0.24 |
| 124.11 | 93.33 | Tr IL 0⅛% 28 | 102.08 | + .43 | ... | –0.26 |
| 125.34 | 92.36 | Tr IL 0⅛% 29 | 102.12 | + .46 | ... | –0.23 |
| 132.82 | 90.61 | Tr IL 0⅛% 31 | 103.94 | + .48 | ... | –0.34 |
| 388.85 | 301.39 | Tr IL 4⅛% 30 * | 348.04 | +1.48 | 1.86 | –0.26 |
| 150.66 | 99.08 | Tr IL 1¼% 32 | 114.85 | + .66 | 1.09 | –0.26 |
| 148.08 | 92.56 | Tr IL 0¾% 34 | 109.69 | + .87 | ... | –0.12 |
| 305.60 | 206.76 | Tr IL 2% 35 * | 253.53 | +2.10 | 0.96 | –0.03 |
| 146.28 | 82.01 | Tr IL 0⅛% 36 | 101.62 | +1.08 | ... | 0.01 |
| 168.29 | 94.08 | Tr IL 1⅛% 37 | 115.51 | +1.22 | 1.02 | 0.06 |
| 151.09 | 78.25 | Tr IL 0⅛% 39 | 99.19 | +1.24 | ... | 0.18 |
| 165.05 | 84.60 | Tr IL 0⅝% 40 | 106.94 | +1.35 | ... | 0.21 |
| 158.34 | 75.20 | Tr IL 0⅛% 41 | 98.07 | +1.42 | ... | 0.23 |
| 174.67 | 82.66 | Tr IL 0⅝% 42 | 106.74 | +1.50 | 0.59 | 0.27 |
| 163.39 | 72.26 | Tr IL 0⅛% 44 | 95.31 | +1.48 | ... | 0.36 |
| 168.94 | 70.25 | Tr IL 0⅛% 46 | 93.76 | +1.57 | ... | 0.41 |
| 195.72 | 80.78 | Tr IL 0¾% 47 | 107.60 | +1.85 | 0.71 | 0.43 |
| 176.40 | 66.79 | Tr IL 0⅛% 48 | 92.69 | +1.75 | ... | 0.43 |
| 195.77 | 72.64 | Tr IL 0½% 50 | 101.78 | +1.98 | ... | 0.43 |
| 192.33 | 65.69 | Tr IL 0¼% 52 | 95.47 | +2.02 | ... | 0.42 |
| 253.30 | 88.77 | Tr IL 1¼% 55 | 126.16 | +2.65 | 1.09 | 0.40 |
| 201.56 | 60.50 | Tr IL 0⅛% 56 | 91.71 | +2.17 | ... | 0.39 |
| 206.26 | 60.14 | Tr IL 0⅛% 58 | 91.70 | +2.26 | ... | 0.38 |
| 234.74 | 64.93 | Tr IL 0⅜% 62 | 101.32 | +2.64 | ... | 0.34 |
| 237.83 | 55.87 | Tr IL 0⅛% 65 | 93.68 | +2.82 | ... | 0.28 |
| 253.73 | 54.65 | Tr IL 0⅛% 68 | 94.02 | +2.97 | ... | 0.27 |
| 289.24 | 55.40 | Tr IL 0⅛% 73 | 99.62 | +3.40 | ... | 0.13 |
| 388.85 | 301.39 | Tr IL 4 ⅛% 30 | 348.04 | +1.48 | 1.86 | –0.26 |

**Longs (Over 15 years)**

| 12 month High | Low | Stock | Price (£) | +/– | Int Yld % | Grs rd yld |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 144.27 | 98.36 | Tr 4¾% 38 | 114.16 | + .88 | 4.16 | 3.56 |
| 91.00 | 58.05 | Tr 1⅛% 39 | 70.08 | + .64 | ... | 3.62 |
| 138.03 | 92.08 | Tr 4¼% 39 | 107.76 | + .83 | 3.94 | 3.62 |
| 140.03 | 91.30 | Tr 4¼% 40 | 107.50 | + .84 | ... | 3.67 |
| 91.69 | 54.72 | Tr 1¼% 41 | 67.59 | + .68 | ... | 3.67 |
| 127.42 | 76.78 | Tr 3¼% 44 | 92.98 | + .71 | ... | 3.74 |
| 147.79 | 93.79 | Tr 4½% 42 | 111.36 | + .94 | 4.04 | 3.68 |
| 133.20 | 79.61 | Tr 3½% 45 | 96.33 | + .74 | ... | 3.75 |
| 150.25 | 89.35 | Tr 4¼% 46 | 107.81 | + .86 | 3.94 | 3.75 |
| 83.33 | 43.93 | Tr 0⅞% 46 | 56.34 | + .57 | ... | 3.73 |
| 95.55 | 51.06 | Tr 1½% 47 | 64.43 | + .64 | ... | 3.74 |
| 101.16 | 53.78 | Tr 1¾% 49 | 67.43 | + .67 | ... | 3.72 |
| 155.93 | 89.75 | Tr 4¼% 49 | 108.56 | + .91 | 3.91 | 3.74 |
| 76.60 | 35.82 | Tr 0⅝% 50 | 47.35 | + .57 | ... | 3.68 |
| 183.85 | 63.35 | Tr 0⅛% 51 | 91.88 | +1.93 | ... | 0.43 |
| 90.04 | 44.40 | Tr 1¼% 51 | 57.27 | + .64 | ... | 3.69 |
| 149.35 | 82.51 | Tr 3¾% 52a | 100.69 | + .87 | ... | 3.71 |
| 96.56 | 46.78 | Tr 1½% 53 | 60.24 | + .63 | ... | 3.69 |
| 99.73 | 48.25 | Tr 1⅝% 54 | 62.03 | + .66 | ... | 3.66 |
| 168.18 | 90.79 | Tr 4¼% 55 | 110.67 | +1.01 | 3.84 | 3.69 |
| 104.20 | 49.39 | Tr 1¾% 57 | 63.63 | + .53 | ... | 3.60 |
| 169.63 | 87.32 | Tr 4% 60 | 108.06 | + .75 | ... | 3.60 |
| 69.69 | 26.21 | Tr 0½% 61 | 37.56 | + .38 | ... | 3.43 |
| 131.14 | 60.88 | Tr 2½% 65 | 77.47 | + .61 | ... | 3.53 |
| 165.72 | 79.01 | Tr 3½% 68 | 99.17 | + .77 | ... | 3.54 |
| 105.72 | 42.99 | Tr 1⅝% 71 | 57.82 | + .57 | ... | 3.41 |

**Mediums (5-15 years)**

| 12 month High | Low | Stock | Price (£) | +/– | Int Yld % | Grs rd yld |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 99.56 | 97.34 | Tr 0¾% 23 | 98.98 | + .04 | ... | 3.74 |
| 101.50 | 98.04 | Tr 2¼% 23 | 99.28 | + .05 | ... | 3.79 |
| 98.11 | 94.34 | Tr 0⅛% 24 | 97.13 | + .13 | ... | 3.54 |
| 99.63 | 94.79 | Tr 1% 24 | 97.24 | + .14 | ... | 3.60 |
| 103.69 | 96.82 | Tr 2¾% 24 | 98.89 | + .17 | ... | 3.54 |
| 110.90 | 100.77 | Tr 5% 25 | 103.00 | + .22 | 4.85 | 3.41 |
| 98.28 | 90.15 | Tr 0⅝% 25 | 94.53 | + .27 | ... | 3.20 |
| 102.74 | 93.15 | Tr 2% 25 | 96.96 | + .29 | ... | 3.30 |
| 96.04 | 86.33 | Tr 0⅛% 26 | 91.69 | + .34 | ... | 3.18 |
| 101.30 | 89.28 | Tr 1½% 26 | 94.59 | + .39 | ... | 3.22 |
| 100.11 | 85.65 | Tr 1¼% 27 | 92.28 | + .49 | ... | 3.17 |
| 116.31 | 98.23 | Tr 4¼% 27 | 104.76 | + .54 | 4.06 | 3.15 |
| 93.49 | 79.15 | Tr 0⅛% 28 | 86.33 | + .51 | ... | 3.18 |
| 102.20 | 84.72 | Tr 1⅝% 28 | 92.30 | + .59 | ... | 3.14 |
| 130.07 | 107.13 | Tr 6% 28 | 114.53 | + .65 | 5.24 | 3.20 |
| 94.38 | 77.61 | Tr 0½% 29 | 85.37 | + .52 | ... | 3.26 |
| 96.69 | 78.21 | Tr 0⅞% 29 | 86.63 | + .59 | ... | 3.14 |
| 91.88 | 72.39 | Tr 0⅜% 30 | 81.38 | + .59 | ... | 3.15 |
| 127.71 | 101.89 | Tr 4¾% 30 | 111.06 | + .69 | 4.28 | 3.12 |
| 89.46 | 69.25 | Tr 0¼% 31 | 78.64 | + .63 | ... | 3.18 |
| 95.34 | 73.06 | Tr 1% 32 | 82.99 | + .65 | ... | 3.22 |
| 126.10 | 98.13 | Tr 4¼% 32 | 108.75 | + .79 | 3.91 | 3.15 |
| 93.01 | 68.57 | Tr 0⅞% 33 | 79.07 | + .74 | ... | 3.27 |
| 132.42 | 98.89 | Tr 4½% 34 | 111.19 | + .91 | 4.05 | 3.32 |
| 87.26 | 61.24 | Tr 0⅝% 35 | 72.17 | + .73 | ... | 3.40 |
| 131.88 | 94.91 | Tr 4¼% 36 | 108.87 | + .95 | 3.90 | 3.40 |
| 100.28 | 67.54 | Tr 1¾% 37 | 79.85 | + .70 | ... | 3.54 |

**Shorts (under 5 years)**

| 12 month High | Low | Stock | Price (£) | +/– | Int Yld % | Grs rd yld |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ... | ... | Tr 0⅛% 23 | ... | | ... | ... |
| 97.16 | 90.04 | Tr 0¼% 25 | 93.95 | + .26 | ... | 3.63 |
| 96.10 | 84.28 | Tr 0⅜% 26 | 90.14 | + .41 | ... | 3.31 |

* maturities having an eight-month indexation lag.

This is a paid for information service. For further details on a particular fund, readers should contact their fund manager.

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# Business Equity prices

**Dividend yields** Please note dividend yields are supplied by Morningstar. The yield is the sum of a company's trailing 12-month dividend payments divided by the last month's ending share price
**12 month high and low** Please note the 12 month high and low figures for shares supplied by Morningstar are based on intra-day figures, not closing prices.

## Automobiles & parts

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 381½ | 89½ | Aston Martin Lag | 221⅞ | -2 | ... | -1.3 |

## Banking & finance

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 236 | 133 | **Abrdn** | 208½ | -⅜ | ... | 4.5 |
| 2611 | 1729 | **Admiral** | 2010 | +15 | ... | 10.2 |
| 71⅜ | 33½ | ADVFN♦ | 35½ | ... | ... | 6.2 |
| 390 | 246⅛ | AJ Bell | 340⅜ | +1⅛ | ... | 31.9 |
| 27544¾ | 20517⅝ | Aon Corpn | 24686⅞ | +216⅝ | ... | 60.2 |
| 42¾ | 22 | Appreciate Group♦ | 42⅛ | ... | ... | 18.3 |
| 1030 | 645 | Arbuthnot Bkg♦ | 917½ | ... | ... | 20.3 |
| 15½ | 11 | Argo Group♦ | 11 | ... | ... | 5.0 |
| 286⅜ | 180⅞ | Ashmore‡ | 240⅜ | -3⅜ | ... | 8.2 |
| 1525½ | 1152⅞ | Aus New Z | 1241 | -4⅞ | ... | 9.6 |
| 602⅞ | 373¾ | **Aviva** | 416 | -4⅝ | ... | 54.7 |
| 341½ | 193⅜ | Banco Santander | 294 | -8⅛ | ... | 7.0 |
| 3000 | 1160 | Bank of Georgia | 2540 | -15 | ... | 7.8 |
| 189⅝ | 135⅝ | **Barclays**‡ | 139¾ | -2⅞ | ... | 3.3 |
| ⅜ | ... | Blue Star Capital♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | 4.7 |
| 346 | 277 | BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦ | 300 | ... | ... | 8.2 |
| 20½ | 7¾ | Braveheart Inv♦ | 7¾ | ... | ... | 0.2 |
| 517 | 307½ | Brewin Dolphin | 515 | +1 | ... | 28.1 |
| 365 | 173⅞ | Bridgepoint | 205⅛ | -1 | ... | 12.8 |
| 80½ | 38½ | Cenkos Secs♦ | 38½ | -½ | ... | 7.8 |
| 325 | 262½ | Chesnara | 279 | +4 | ... | 15.5 |
| 63½ | 9 | City of Lon Gp♦ | 10 | +1 | ... | -0.6 |
| 498 | 343½ | City Lon Inv Gp‡ | 435 | -5 | ... | 10.2 |
| 1217 | 893 | Close Bros‡ | 893 | -30 | ... | 6.6 |
| 317 | 211½ | CMC Markets | 234 | -1½ | ... | 7.1 |
| 1047⅜ | 502⅝ | Commerzbk | 829⅞ | -35⅞ | ... | 42.5 |
| 1082 | 665⅞ | Deutsche Bk | 825⅛ | -27⅛ | ... | 9.6 |
| 280½ | 144 | Direct Line Ins | 144 | -3½ | ... | 5.9 |
| 58½ | 57 | Downing ONE VCT | 57 | ... | ... | 7.7 |
| 1⅛ | ⅜ | Drumz♦ | ⅝ | ... | ... | -5.6 |
| 165⅛ | 75⅛ | EFG-Hermes Hldg | 88⅜ | -8⅞ | ... | 5.6 |
| 255 | 122½ | EPE Special Opps♦ | 171 | -2 | ... | 9.5 |
| 1252¾ | 819 | FBD | 1252¾ | ... | ... | 5.5 |
| 72½ | 67½ | Fiske♦ | 67½ | ... | ... | 12.0 |
| 78 | 59 | Frenkel Topping♦ | 66½ | ... | ... | 38.6 |
| 840 | 548 | Georgia Capital | 766 | +6 | ... | 2.0 |
| 1005 | 710 | Gresham House♦ | 730 | +3 | ... | 29.3 |
| 506 | 309 | H&T Group♦ | 427 | -1 | ... | 13.6 |
| 51½ | 33 | Hansard Global‡ | 44⅛ | -¼ | ... | 15.2 |
| 1073 | 740¾ | **Hargreaves Lansdown**‡ | 805⅛ | +5⅜ | ... | 14.3 |
| 194⅞ | 143⅜ | Helios Under♦ | 157½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 647½ | 442⅛ | **HSBC**‡ | 548⅛ | -16⅜ | ... | 11.9 |
| 847½ | 648 | IG Group | 712 | +5½ | ... | 7.2 |
| 1036 | 500 | Impax♦ | 814 | +18 | ... | 26.8 |
| 1829½ | 953⅛ | Intermed Capital | 1215½ | -12½ | ... | 6.9 |
| 114 | 64⅜ | IPF | 104 | +3¾ | ... | 5.8 |
| 173¾ | 136 | International Public P'ship | 143 | -½ | ... | 18.3 |
| 546⅜ | 351½ | Investec | 447⅛ | -3½ | ... | 11.2 |
| 320 | 253 | Investment Co | 305 | -5 | ... | 10.9 |
| 96½ | 52¾ | IP Group | 56⅞ | -¼ | ... | 2.1 |
| 242½ | 94 | Jarvis Securities♦ | 139 | +2½ | ... | 9.9 |
| 213 | 83¾ | Jupiter Fund Mgmt | 134½ | -¾ | ... | 5.0 |
| 95⅜ | 55⅞ | Just Group | 83½ | -½ | ... | ... |
| 664 | 368½ | Lancashire Holdings | 539 | -9 | ... | ... |
| 284¼ | 204 | **Legal & Gen** | 228⅞ | -6½ | ... | 7.0 |
| ... | ... | Liberty Group | 502⅝ | -2⅝ | ... | ... |
| 1308 | 704 | Liontrust | 1062 | +8 | ... | 13.2 |
| 55¼ | 38 | Livermore Invs♦ | 48⅛ | +⅝ | ... | 3.1 |
| 53⅞ | 39 | **Lloyds Banking Group** | 46¾ | -⅞ | ... | 6.5 |
| 36 | 25 | LMS Capital | 25 | -½ | ... | 10.9 |
| 8582 | 6738 | **Lond Stk Ex Gp** | 7780 | +98 | ... | 79.5 |
| 226½ | 159⅞ | **M&G**‡ | 181⅞ | -4¼ | ... | 56.8 |
| 286¾ | 204¼ | Man | 242 | +1½ | ... | 9.7 |
| 29 | 8 | Manx Fin♦ | 27½ | -½ | ... | 13.9 |
| 3¼ | 1 | Marechale Cap♦ | 1 | ... | ... | 0.5 |
| 14754½ | 11917½ | Marsh McLn | 12947¼ | +131⅜ | ... | 26.9 |
| 797½ | 530 | Mattioli Woods♦‡ | 585 | +5 | ... | ... |
| 21¾ | 8 | Metal Tiger♦ | 8 | -½ | ... | 3.0 |
| 153⅛ | 69 | Metro Bank | 109 | +2 | ... | -0.7 |
| 1845¼ | 1423½ | Nat Aust Bk | 1506⅝ | -22⅞ | ... | 14.9 |
| 309⅞ | 212⅜ | **NatWest**‡ | 268 | -1 | ... | 10.5 |
| 295 | 170⅜ | Numis♦ | 216½ | +1½ | ... | 4.4 |
| 599 | 375⅜ | Onesavings Bank‡ | 467⅜ | -33½ | ... | 6.2 |
| 652 | 460 | PayPoint | 464 | +2 | ... | 14.5 |
| 8½ | ¼ | PCF Group♦ | ⅞ | +¼ | ... | -0.4 |
| 684⅛ | 506¾ | **Phoenix** | 557½ | -11 | ... | -6.4 |
| 321¾ | 136¼ | Provident | 225 | ... | ... | 4.2 |
| 1371½ | 797½ | **Prudential**‡ | 1066 | -8 | ... | 17.3 |
| 2⅞ | ⅞ | Quantum Blockchain♦ | 1⅞ | ... | ... | ... |
| 173¾ | 82 | Quilter | 85¾ | +⅞ | ... | 61.3 |
| 160⅜ | 57½ | Randall & Quilter♦ | 72½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 2220 | 1570 | Rathbone Grp | 1882 | -2 | ... | 14.5 |
| 1⅛ | ½ | RiverFort Global Opps♦ | ⅝ | ... | ... | 2.0 |
| 1955 | 1370 | Rockwood Strategic | 1835 | -15 | ... | 2.6 |
| 2510 | 1905 | S & U | 2360 | +85 | ... | 11.1 |
| 2 | 1 | Sancus Lending Grp♦ | 1 | ... | ... | -0.5 |
| 60¾ | 40¾ | Schroder REIT | 41½ | +⅛ | ... | 4.4 |
| 661⅜ | 358¾ | **Schroders**‡ | 445⅜ | -18 | ... | 2.0 |
| 1517½ | 920 | **St James Place** | 1191 | ... | ... | 22.6 |
| 790¾ | 479⅝ | **Stand Chart**‡ | 632⅜ | -19½ | ... | 14.1 |
| 13½ | 7¼ | Starvest♦ | 8 | -½ | ... | -1.3 |
| 29 | 22½ | STM Group♦ | 28 | +½ | ... | 10.7 |
| 4238½ | 3238¼ | Sun Life Can | 3667¼ | -17¾ | ... | 9.3 |
| 10 | 5¼ | Tavistock Inv♦ | 7¼ | ... | ... | 1.2 |
| 2590 | 1032 | TBC Bank Group | 2230 | -20 | ... | 6.5 |
| 16¾ | 6¼ | Tern♦ | 7 | +¼ | ... | 5.2 |
| 25¾ | 15¼ | Time Finance♦ | 24⅛ | -¼ | ... | 14.7 |
| 1205 | 900 | Volvere♦ | 1180 | -10 | ... | ... |
| 45 | 20½ | WH Ireland♦ | 20½ | ... | ... | 11.5 |
| 33½ | 26 | Walker Crips Grp | 26 | ... | ... | 74.2 |
| 4408⅛ | 3037⅛ | Wells Fargo | 3037⅛ | +18 | ... | 8.3 |
| 1353¾ | 1053⅞ | Westpac | 1163⅛ | -5⅜ | ... | 15.7 |
| 31 | 21½ | Worsley Investors Ltd | 29½ | -½ | ... | 92.1 |
| 40936⅝ | 34587½ | Zurich Fincl | 37118¾ | -195⅛ | ... | 14.5 |

## Investment companies

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld % | Dis(-) or Pm |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1685 | 1042 | **3i Group** | 1583½ | +14½ | ... | -3.4 |
| 368½ | 281½ | 3i Infrastructure | 311½ | ... | ... | -2.7 |
| 103 | 81 | Abrdn Div I&G | 83 | -½ | ... | -27.1 |
| 1428 | 1066 | Aberforth Smlr | 1222 | -6 | ... | -12.8 |
| 1046 | 876 | Alliance | 965 | -6 | ... | -4.9 |
| 461 | 352 | Asia Dragon Tr | 399 | +1 | ... | -13.0 |
| 244 | 183½ | Athelney Trust | 200 | +5 | ... | -6.0 |
| 206½ | 171¾ | AVI Global Trust | 185¾ | -¾ | ... | -9.5 |
| 348 | 206¼ | Baillie Gifford Ch Gr | 265 | +6 | ... | -10.1 |
| 111⅛ | 73½ | Baillie Gifford Eu Gr | 93½ | +⅜ | ... | -13.5 |
| 860 | 657 | Baillie Gifford Jpn Tr | 737 | +3 | ... | -10.1 |
| 179¾ | 131¼ | Baillie Gifford SN | 152⅜ | +1⅜ | ... | -10.0 |
| 191 | 139⅜ | Baillie Gifford UK Gr | 163 | +⅜ | ... | -15.0 |
| 110⅛ | 90⅞ | Bankers | 99¼ | -⅝ | ... | -8.5 |
| 5232 | 398¾ | BH Macro | 426 | -1 | ... | 2.6 |
| 1048 | 722¼ | Biotech Growth | 784 | -11 | ... | -7.0 |
| 151 | 95 | BlckRck Com Inc | 124 | -1 | ... | -3.0 |
| 144½ | 116½ | BlckRck Fro Inv | 131 | -¾ | ... | -6.2 |
| 568 | 396 | BlckRck Grt Euro | 520 | +10 | ... | -7.0 |
| 206 | 164 | BlckRck Inc & Gwth | 185 | -4½ | ... | -8.0 |
| 457 | 330 | BlckRck Latin Am | 339 | -8 | ... | -9.5 |
| 215 | 183 | BlckRck SustAm | 183½ | -¾ | ... | -5.3 |
| 1694⅝ | 1162 | BlckRck Smlr | 1298 | +12 | ... | -14.2 |
| 767 | 477⅞ | BlckRck Throgmorton | 570 | -2 | ... | -5.2 |
| 804⅞ | 524 | BlckRck Wld Min | 650 | +5 | ... | 1.4 |
| 18¼ | 4½ | Blue Plan Int Fn# | 7¾ | ... | ... | -19.2 |
| 325⅞ | 256 | CT Cap&Inc | 288 | -2 | ... | -3.2 |
| 124⅛ | 68½ | Balanced Comm Prop | 81½ | +¼ | ... | -31.4 |
| 162¾ | 122 | The Glbl Smaller | 142 | -⅛ | ... | -12.4 |
| 506 | 375½ | CT Priv Eq Ord | 440 | -9 | ... | -36.7 |
| 101 | 60¾ | CT Real Estate | 62 | +⅛ | ... | -35.1 |
| 91¼ | 71 | CT UK HIT | 82 | ... | ... | -7.5 |
| 92¾ | 79 | CT UK HIT B | 85 | ... | ... | -4.1 |
| 356 | 294 | CT UK HIT UNIT | 325 | ... | ... | -8.3 |
| 1335 | 1072½ | Brown Advsr US Sm | 1187½ | -17½ | ... | -11.8 |
| 1115 | 888 | Brunner | 1055 | -10 | ... | -8.9 |
| 4065 | 3015 | Caledonia Inv | 3440 | +10 | ... | -31.3 |
| 184½ | 141 | Invesco BondInc | 160¼ | -1½ | ... | 0.8 |
| 432 | 366½ | City of Lon IT | 406½ | -3½ | ... | 2.7 |
| 122⅞ | 85 | Crystal Amber Fd | 87½ | -2 | ... | -28.7 |
| 580 | 454 | Dunedin Entp | 562½ | ... | ... | -11.2 |
| 690 | 537 | Edinburgh IT | 655 | +1 | ... | -7.5 |
| 230½ | 147¼ | Edin Wwide | 152⅛ | -½ | ... | -17.8 |
| 336 | 268 | EP Global Opp | 326½ | -1 | ... | -10.1 |
| 118 | 74½ | European Assets | 91⅜ | ... | ... | -8.0 |
| 780 | 608 | European Opp Tr | 746 | +2 | ... | -14.2 |
| 989 | 769 | **F&C Invest Tr** | 910 | -5 | ... | -0.9 |
| 536 | 413½ | Fidlty Asian Val | 506 | +2 | ... | -4.3 |
| 299⅜ | 181⅞ | Fidelity China Sp | 249 | +3 | ... | -9.0 |
| 351 | 258½ | Fidlty Euro Val | 336 | +½ | ... | -6.4 |
| 189½ | 143 | Fidlty Jap Tru | 172 | +1½ | ... | -11.7 |
| 298 | 232 | Fidlty Spec Val | 272 | +2 | ... | -7.1 |
| 899⅜ | 731¾ | Fins Gwth & Inc | 878 | -1 | ... | -5.2 |
| 120⅛ | 85⅝ | GCP Infrastructure | 88¾ | -⅜ | ... | -21.3 |
| 694⅞ | 552⅝ | Gen Emer Mkts | 585½ | +10⅜ | ... | -15.5 |
| 55 | 28½ | Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl | 33¼ | ... | ... | -8.2 |
| 168½ | 130⅜ | Greencoat UK Wind | 156 | -1½ | ... | -5.7 |
| 206⅜ | 166 | Hansa Investment | 174 | ... | ... | -42.2 |
| 206⅜ | 167 | Hansa Inv Co 'A' | 173½ | ... | ... | -42.4 |
| 2650 | 1900 | Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq | 2000 | -50 | ... | -49.4 |
| 165½ | 120½ | Hend Euro Foc | 155 | +1 | ... | -10.7 |
| 181 | 137¼ | Hend High Inc | 169½ | -1 | ... | 0.5 |
| 1020 | 674¼ | Hend Smlr | 822 | +8 | ... | -10.1 |
| 1966 | 1540 | Herald | 1780 | +20 | ... | -15.2 |
| 457½ | 310 | HgCapital Trust | 337 | -6 | ... | -25.1 |
| 184⅞ | 138⅞ | HICL Infra | 153⅜ | -⅜ | ... | -7.1 |
| 298 | 216 | Highbridge Tactical | 282 | +3 | ... | 6.5 |
| 1223¾ | 928 | ICG Ent Tr | 1016 | ... | ... | -45.2 |
| 486⅜ | 373⅛ | Impax Env Mkts | 428 | -2½ | ... | 1.2 |
| 374 | 280 | Invesco Asia Tr | 340 | ... | ... | -9.5 |
| 184½ | 141 | Invesco BondInc | 160¼ | -1½ | ... | 0.8 |
| 164⅝ | 111 | IPST Bal | 139½ | +1 | ... | -9.6 |
| 258½ | 200 | IPST Gbl Eq | 238 | ... | ... | -10.0 |
| 101 | 92 | IPST Managed | 95¼ | ... | ... | -12.2 |
| 189 | 141 | IPST UK Eq | 162½ | ... | ... | -11.4 |
| 546 | 373½ | IP UKSmallerCos | 435 | -5 | ... | -9.6 |
| 800 | 650 | JPM American | 696 | -6 | ... | -1.7 |
| 402¼ | 294½ | JPM Asia | 366½ | +3½ | ... | -9.4 |
| 451½ | 246½ | JPM Chinese | 322½ | +6½ | ... | -8.8 |
| 738 | 624 | JPM Claverhs | 668 | -2 | ... | -3.8 |
| 120⅜ | 91 | JPM Em Mkts | 107½ | +2 | ... | -9.9 |
| 460½ | 339 | JPM Euro disc | 416½ | +½ | ... | -15.0 |
| 142½ | 108 | JPM GEMI | 130¼ | +¾ | ... | -9.5 |
| 481 | 386 | JPM GG&I | 450½ | -4 | ... | 3.1 |
| 898 | 719⅞ | JPM Indian | 770 | -2 | ... | -18.5 |
| 384 | 301 | JPM Jap Sml Co | 324 | +11 | ... | -11.7 |
| 528¾ | 408½ | JPM Japan# | 463½ | +1½ | ... | -7.9 |
| 1122 | 735 | JPM Mid Cap | 873 | -7 | ... | -13.4 |
| 104 | 85¼ | JPM Multi-Ass G&I | 94 | +1 | ... | -4.0 |
| 345 | 230 | JPM Smllr Co | 261 | ... | ... | -13.0 |
| 255⅛ | 174 | Keystone IT | 207¼ | -1¾ | ... | -14.9 |
| 871 | 649 | Law Debenture | 794 | -7 | ... | 1.8 |
| 136½ | 99 | Lowland | 122½ | -2 | ... | -6.0 |
| 220¼ | 156¾ | Majedie | 212 | +2 | ... | -14.4 |
| 358 | 272⅛ | M Currie Port | 332 | -2 | ... | -0.2 |
| 120 | 90 | Marwyn Val In | 96½ | ... | ... | -45.3 |
| 226 | 158¼ | Mercantile IT | 192¾ | ... | ... | -15.8 |
| 606 | 480 | Merchants | 557 | -5 | ... | 1.1 |
| 820 | 639¾ | Mid Wynd | 672 | -5 | ... | -1.5 |
| 1138 | 875 | Monks Inv Tst | 946½ | -5½ | ... | -10.8 |
| 171 | 104⅛ | Montanaro Eur Sml | 136⅛ | -⅛ | ... | -10.6 |
| 903½ | 715 | Murray Income Trust | 840 | -5 | ... | -6.0 |
| 1376 | 1128 | Murray Int | 1318 | +4 | ... | -0.1 |
| 88½ | 70¾ | Nb Global Floating | 71½ | -½ | ... | -9.4 |
| 384 | 303 | Pacific Assets | 356 | ... | ... | -5.9 |
| 325 | 229⅛ | Pantheon Int | 236½ | -2½ | ... | -48.0 |
| 3115 | 2295 | **Pershing Sq** | 2800 | +5 | ... | -33.9 |
| 506 | 463¾ | Personal Assets | 475½ | +½ | ... | -0.4 |
| 2300 | 1697½ | Polar Cap Tech | 1988 | +12 | ... | -13.0 |
| 202 | 132½ | Prem Glb & Inf | 137½ | ... | ... | -16.7 |
| 148½ | 112½ | Renewables Inf | 124¾ | -1½ | ... | -6.0 |
| 2610 | 1792 | RIT Cap Ptnr | 1888 | -4 | ... | -22.2 |
| 750 | 530⅜ | Riverstone | 570 | -6 | ... | -51.9 |
| 469½ | 366½ | Schroder TotRt | 426 | +1½ | ... | -4.6 |
| 552 | 446 | Schrd Asia Pac | 511 | +5 | ... | -10.6 |
| 324 | 254½ | Schrod Inc Gwth | 292 | +½ | ... | -2.8 |
| 218 | 187 | Schrod Jap Gwth | 203 | +½ | ... | -12.3 |
| 626 | 454 | Schrod UKMid | 552 | ... | ... | -12.0 |
| 26 | 11½ | Schroder UK PP Tr | 12 | ... | ... | -56.8 |
| 536½ | 434 | Scot American | 496 | -1 | ... | -2.9 |
| 1081¾ | 643⅛ | **Scot Mtge** | 670 | +14⅛ | ... | -20.2 |
| 242 | 205 | Secs Tst Scot | 213 | -1 | ... | -0.5 |
| 103¾ | 75½ | Sequoia Eco | 80½ | ... | ... | -13.8 |
| 249½ | 195⅛ | Temple Bar | 229 | ... | ... | -5.9 |
| 166 | 130 | Tplton Emg Mkt | 149¾ | +1½ | ... | -13.1 |
| ⅜ | ... | Tiger Royal and Inv♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | 45.8 |
| 487½ | 263 | TR Property | 282 | -1½ | ... | -9.2 |
| 78 | 64⅜ | Troy Inc&Gth | 70½ | +⅞ | ... | -2.6 |
| 252 | 128 | Utilico Ord | 131 | ... | ... | -39.0 |
| 227½ | 197½ | Utilico Emerging Mkt | 206 | -2 | ... | -13.3 |
| 772 | 500 | Vietnam Ent Inv | 568 | +3 | ... | -14.5 |
| 237½ | 199¾ | Witan | 221 | -1 | ... | -8.7 |
| 3500 | 2820 | Ww Health | 3050 | -15 | ... | -8.9 |




## Construction & property

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 206 | 133 | Alumasc♦‡ | 156 | ... | ... | 7.9 |
| 16 | 10¼ | Aseana Props | 11¼ | ... | ... | -5.6 |
| 71¾ | 47¾ | Assura‡ | 49½ | +¼ | ... | 9.9 |
| 2¾ | 1⅜ | Aukett Swanke♦ | 2¾ | ... | ... | -3.9 |
| 372⅜ | 233 | Balfour Beatty | 372⅜ | +7½ | ... | 17.6 |
| 561¾ | 323⅜ | **Barratt Devs** | 444¾ | +4¾ | ... | 6.9 |
| 2955 | 1586½ | Bellway | 2035 | -14 | ... | 6.1 |
| 4457 | 3165 | **Berkeley**‡ | 4034 | -26 | ... | 10.5 |
| 1558 | 987 | Big Yellow Group | 1138 | +12 | ... | 7.5 |
| 410 | 181½ | Billington Hldgs♦ | 390 | ... | ... | 31.7 |
| 345 | 219 | Boot (Henry) | 225 | +3 | ... | 12.0 |
| 543⅜ | 324¾ | **Br Land** | 367¾ | -7⅛ | ... | 50.3 |
| 160 | 120 | Caledonian Tst♦ | 142½ | -7½ | ... | 28.4 |
| 64¾ | 43¾ | Cap & Regnl | 57⅞ | ... | ... | -0.5 |
| 2550 | 2100 | Cardiff Prop | 2400 | ... | ... | 26.1 |
| 25 | 3½ | Carecapital♦ | 3½ | ... | ... | -0.4 |
| 170 | 106 | Clarke T | 137½ | -1½ | ... | 9.8 |
| 294⅛ | 191⅝ | Countryside Prop | 229¾ | +14 | ... | 16.7 |
| 28⅞ | 6⅛ | Craven House♦ | 16⅝ | ... | ... | -0.3 |
| 4353 | 2756½ | **CRH**‡ | 4048 | -81 | ... | 16.8 |
| 3308 | 1876 | Derwent London | 2262 | -42 | ... | 10.0 |
| 4 | 3 | Dolphin Capital♦ | 3¾ | ... | ... | -2.6 |
| 36½ | 22 | First Prop♦‡ | a24½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 52½ | 37½ | Fletcher King♦ | 37½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 46⅝ | 27¼ | Foxtons Group | 39¾ | +¾ | ... | ... |
| 187¾ | 145 | Galliford Try‡ | 172 | +⅛ | ... | 38.2 |
| 538 | 252½ | Genuit Group | 272 | +2 | ... | 16.4 |
| 640 | 335 | Gleeson (MJ)‡ | 395 | -14 | ... | 6.1 |
| 1054 | 630½ | Grafton | 859 | -6½ | ... | 9.9 |
| 312¾ | 205⅜ | Grainger | 228⅜ | +1¾ | ... | 14.1 |
| 729 | 409⅛ | Great Portland | 489⅜ | -7½ | ... | -6.1 |
| 34⅜ | 17⅛ | Hammerson | 22⅝ | -¼ | ... | -2.4 |
| 185 | 101 | Harworth Gp | 109½ | -6 | ... | 3.7 |
| 630 | 425 | Heath (Samuel)♦‡ | 425 | -25 | ... | 8.8 |
| 442 | 296½ | Helical PLC | 297½ | -13 | ... | 7.1 |
| 1065 | 890 | Highcroft Invs | 890 | +5 | ... | 3.8 |
| 208⅛ | 148¼ | Ibstock | 171⅛ | -2⅛ | ... | 22.2 |
| 258 | 176 | James Halstead♦ | 187 | +6¾ | ... | 19.9 |
| 854 | 591 | Keller | 661 | -7 | ... | 7.6 |
| 8267¼ | 3935⅜ | Kingspan Group | 5334¾ | -144⅞ | ... | 20.9 |
| 806⅜ | 485¼ | **Land Sec**‡ | 583¾ | -6½ | ... | ... |
| 103 | 62⅛ | Life Science Reit | 62⅛ | -⅜ | ... | ... |
| 25 | 15½ | Lon & Assoc | 15½ | ... | ... | -2.1 |
| 280⅜ | 161¾ | Londonmetric Property‡ | 170⅛ | +1¾ | ... | 3.6 |
| 59 | 37 | Macau Prop Op | 57¼ | +¼ | ... | -7.4 |
| 689⅜ | 225⅜ | Marshalls | 301½ | +½ | ... | 11.0 |
| 128 | 74 | Michelmersh♦ | 92 | ... | ... | 14.6 |
| 2480 | 1392 | Morgan Sindall | 1672 | -18 | ... | 8.1 |
| 13900 | 10800 | Mountview‡ | 10800 | -200 | ... | 13.4 |
| 99½ | 68¼ | NewRiver REIT | 81½ | -½ | ... | -2.8 |
| 297 | 195 | Palace Capital‡ | 218½ | +2½ | ... | 10.4 |
| 335 | 275 | Panther Securities♦ | 275 | -10 | ... | 2.4 |
| 2283 | 1138½ | **Persimmon** | 1219½ | -9½ | ... | 4.9 |
| 6¼ | 2¼ | Pires Investments♦ | 2¼ | ... | ... | -5.1 |
| 65 | 45 | Plaza Cent | 45 | ... | ... | -0.1 |
| 151⅝ | 98⅝ | Primary Health Properties | 102⅛ | -⅛ | ... | 10.4 |
| 40½ | 28¼ | Real Estate Invs♦ | 28¼ | -¼ | ... | 3.7 |
| 585 | 372½ | Redrow‡ | 447⅛ | -3¾ | ... | 5.5 |
| 1398 | 794 | Safestore‡ | 923½ | +6½ | ... | 5.2 |
| 1229 | 763½ | Savills | 947½ | +8 | ... | 9.4 |
| 6¼ | 5⅝ | Secure Property♦ | 5⅝ | ... | ... | 14.8 |
| 1389 | 694 | **Segro**‡ | 737¾ | +11¾ | ... | 2.1 |
| 44⅝ | 27¾ | SIG | 41½ | +⅛ | ... | ... |
| 86 | 37⅜ | SigmaRoc♦ | 54 | +#½ | ... | ... |
| 129⅛ | 66½ | Sirius Real Estate | 72 | +1⅝ | ... | 5.6 |
| 173½ | 160½ | Smart (J) | 169½ | -2 | ... | 4.6 |
| 50 | 28 | Steppe Cement♦ | 44½ | +1 | ... | 10.2 |
| 145¾ | 85 | **Taylor Wimpey** | 116⅛ | +⅛ | ... | 7.6 |
| 178½ | 129 | Town Centre | 139 | -5 | ... | 5.4 |
| 1358½ | 738 | Travis Perkins | 950 | -7 | ... | 9.2 |
| 248½ | 125⅝ | Tritax Big Box Reit‡ | 135½ | +⅝ | ... | 2.4 |
| 108⅜ | 58⅝ | Tritax Eurobox | 60½ | -1 | ... | ... |
| 344 | 184½ | Tyman | 241 | +2½ | ... | 9.5 |
| 1207 | 791½ | **Unite** | 898 | +12 | ... | 10.4 |
| 1063 | 519½ | Vistry Group | 753½ | +20½ | ... | 6.6 |
| 176⅛ | 95⅜ | Warehouse REIT‡ | 95⅜ | +⅜ | ... | 2.2 |
| 722 | 343⅜ | Workspace Grp | 453½ | +1⅛ | ... | -6.7 |
| 755 | 635 | Wynnstay Props♦ | 635 | ... | ... | 4.6 |

## Consumer goods

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6¾ | 1⅛ | Agriterra♦ | 1⅛ | ... | ... | -0.1 |
| 39½ | 25½ | Airea♦ | 38 | ... | ... | 14.0 |
| 952 | 740 | Anglo-Eastern | 835 | -16 | ... | 7.6 |
| 340 | 148½ | Animalcare♦ | 150½ | +2½ | ... | ... |
| 2067 | 1237 | **AB Foods** | 1955 | -10 | ... | 32.3 |
| 121 | 79 | Bakkavor Group | 110½ | +1½ | ... | 11.5 |
| 588 | 432 | Barr (AG) | 546 | +2 | ... | 19.3 |
| 4½ | 1½ | Bidstack Group♦ | 1⅞ | ... | ... | -1.5 |
| 106½ | 24½ | Brand Architekts♦ | 31 | ... | ... | -1.3 |
| 3628 | 2823½ | **Brit Amer Tob**‡ | 2823½ | -165½ | ... | 9.5 |
| 867 | 707½ | Britvic | 867 | -9 | ... | 19.6 |
| 2592 | 1482 | **Burberry** | 2361 | -9 | ... | 20.3 |
| 216⅜ | 140⅝ | C&C Grp | 155⅛ | +5⅜ | ... | -9.2 |
| 8½ | 2⅛ | Capital Metals♦ | 4⅜ | ... | ... | -1.1 |
| 153 | 92 | Carr's Grp# | 121½ | -3 | ... | 15.0 |
| 614 | 363 | Character Grp♦ | 375 | ... | ... | 6.6 |
| 1525 | 1070 | Churchill China♦ | 1255 | -10 | ... | ... |
| 2180 | 1548 | **Coca Cola HBC** | 2171 | -23 | ... | 17.3 |
| 880 | 595 | Colefax♦‡ | 770 | ... | ... | 13.6 |
| 3748 | 2586 | Cranswick | 2970 | +20 | ... | 15.6 |
| 328½ | 164 | Devro | 328½ | ... | ... | 17.8 |
| 4020½ | 3410½ | **Diageo**‡ | 3563 | -41 | ... | 27.4 |
| 1¾ | ⅜ | Distil♦ | ⅜ | ... | ... | 11.8 |
| 1085 | 784 | Evans (M.P.)♦ | 844 | +2 | ... | 7.2 |
| 103½ | 66½ | Finsbury Food♦‡ | 94 | ... | ... | 11.1 |
| 9515 | 5690 | Games Workshop | 9020 | +240 | ... | 24.8 |
| 1182 | 851⅛ | Glanbia‡ | 1182 | +28⅝ | ... | 29.1 |
| 135⅞ | 60¾ | Greencore | 83¼ | +1½ | ... | 16.6 |
| 398 | 231 | Headlam | 299 | -3 | ... | 12.8 |
| 1250 | 500 | Hilton Food | 697 | +5 | ... | 14.5 |
| 36 | 24 | Hornby♦ | 24½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 2185 | 1589 | **Imperial Brands**‡ | 1875½ | -44 | ... | 6.2 |
| 1⅝ | 1¼ | J Lewis Hford♦ | 1⅜ | ... | ... | 8.7 |
| 9536⅛ | 7315 | Kerry Gp | 8219½ | +193½ | ... | 22.7 |
| 45⅛ | 15½ | McBride | 26⅜ | +¼ | ... | -4.7 |
| 310 | 205 | Mulberry Group♦ | 215 | ... | ... | 8.9 |
| 1460 | 986½ | Nichols♦‡ | 1075 | +15 | ... | ... |
| 270 | 165 | Norcros | 183½ | -3½ | ... | 5.8 |
| 383⅝ | 298⅜ | Origin Ents♦ | 375⅝ | ... | ... | 11.8 |
| 66½ | 37½ | Pittards♦ | 37½ | ... | ... | 17.6 |
| 620 | 300 | Portmeirion♦ | 377 | +24½ | ... | 16.0 |
| 1 | ⅝ | Provexis♦ | ¾ | ... | ... | 0.4 |
| 221 | 175¾ | PZ Cussons‡ | 179½ | +1⅛ | ... | 20.7 |
| 200½ | 98½ | REA | 99¾ | ... | ... | -7.8 |
| 2⅜ | 1 | Real Gd Fd♦ | 1⅛ | ... | ... | 0.1 |
| 505 | 235 | Tandem♦ | 255 | -2½ | ... | 3.6 |
| 1158 | 507 | Treatt | 589 | +13 | ... | 23.6 |
| 3¼ | 1¾ | Ukrproduct Gp♦ | 3¼ | ... | ... | -2.2 |
| 4876½ | 4039 | Unilever (NV) | 4718½ | -44½ | ... | 24.2 |
| 4267½ | 3370 | **Unilever** | 4172½ | -30 | ... | 21.4 |
| 926 | 317 | Victoria♦ | 502 | -2 | ... | ... |

## Engineering

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ... | ... | Ass Br Eng# | 15 | ... | ... | -3.5 |
| 1381 | 739 | Avon Rubber | 909 | +9½ | ... | ... |
| 367½ | 268½ | Babcock | 307 | -6¾ | ... | -1.9 |
| 975 | 713 | **BAE** | 975 | +17 | ... | 17.8 |
| 2150 | 1600 | Braime A N/V♦ | 2100 | ... | ... | 23.6 |
| 1750 | 1480 | Braime Group♦ | 1700 | -50 | ... | 19.1 |
| 602½ | 500 | Caffyns | 550 | ... | ... | 7.9 |
| 5¾ | 1⅝ | Cap XX Ld♦ | 1⅝ | ... | ... | -3.4 |
| 380 | 279 | Castings | 330 | -15 | ... | 15.9 |
| 5 | 3⅜ | Chamberlin♦ | 3½ | ... | ... | -0.2 |
| 42½ | 14 | Checkit♦ | 30 | ... | ... | -3.6 |
| 560 | 391 | Cohort♦ | 467 | +2½ | ... | 41.5 |
| 400 | 167½ | Crestchic Plc♦ | 399 | ... | ... | ... |
| 1410 | 1020⅜ | Dewhurst♦ | 1100 | ... | ... | 12.6 |
| 371 | 198¼ | Dialight | 198¼ | +¾ | ... | ... |
| 1283¼ | 901⅜ | Electrolux 'B' | 946⅝ | +¼ | ... | 7.1 |
| 182½ | 85½ | Feedback♦ | 167 | -½ | ... | ... |
| 1025 | 426 | Gooch Hsego♦ | 446 | -2 | ... | 33.0 |
| 3930 | 2400 | Goodwin‡ | 3630 | -110 | ... | 20.0 |
| 2578 | 1876½ | **Halma** | 2111 | +12 | ... | 30.5 |
| 1548 | 893 | Hill & Smith | 1352 | +14 | ... | 31.8 |
| 125 | 71½ | Holders Tech♦ | 82½ | -1 | ... | 5.0 |
| 2¾ | ¾ | Image Scan♦ | 1¾ | ... | ... | 10.8 |
| 1625 | 1071 | IMI | 1495 | -3 | ... | 20.4 |
| ... | ... | Inspirit Energy♦ | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 9600 | 6400 | Judges Scientific♦ | 8600 | -180 | ... | 43.3 |
| 84 | 71½ | LPA♦ | 83½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 798¾ | 760⅛ | Meggitt | 798¾ | +⅛ | ... | ... |
| 165¾ | 95½ | **Melrose** | 159¾ | +5⅝ | ... | ... |
| 325 | 217 | Morgan Advanced | 292 | +5 | ... | 12.3 |
| 535 | 227½ | Mpac♦ | 255 | ... | ... | 6.6 |
| 745 | 260 | MS Intl♦ | 515 | ... | ... | 73.5 |
| 2625 | 1720 | Oxford Inst | 2465 | -15 | ... | 33.6 |
| 2536¾ | 1064 | Philips El nv | 1350¾ | -9⅝ | ... | 24.0 |
| 36½ | 12¾ | PipeHawk♦ | 13¼ | ... | ... | 28.1 |
| 101½ | 23⅛ | Pressure Tech♦ | 42 | ... | ... | -3.4 |
| 4338 | 3342 | Renishaw‡ | 4056 | +16 | ... | 23.1 |
| 29 | 20 | Renold♦ | 26⅛ | -¼ | ... | 9.3 |
| 158 | 66⅛ | **Rolls-Royce** | 147¼ | -1⅞ | ... | ... |
| 1¾ | 1 | Ross Gp | 1 | ... | ... | -2.5 |
| 337½ | 229½ | Rotork | 313¾ | +2¾ | ... | 34.1 |
| 200 | 144 | SDI Group♦ | 179 | -1 | ... | 29.5 |
| 173⅜ | 111 | Senior | 150½ | -½ | ... | 26.2 |
| 70⅛ | 48 | Severfield | 61 | -¾ | ... | 10.8 |
| 16¼ | 8 | Six Hundred♦ | 8½ | ... | ... | 49.7 |
| 1697¼ | 1139⅜ | SKF B | 1609½ | +41⅞ | ... | 11.9 |
| 300 | 175 | Slingsby (HC)♦ | 300 | +30 | ... | 4.9 |
| 1797½ | 1364 | **Smiths** | 1715½ | +2½ | ... | 27.2 |
| 1435 | 986 | Solid State♦ | 1125 | -5 | ... | 27.1 |
| 540 | 350 | Somero Enter♦ | 365 | +4 | ... | 8.1 |
| 3644 | 2474 | Spectris | 3485 | -15 | ... | 11.4 |
| 13070 | 9130 | **Spirax-Sarco** | 11325 | +65 | ... | 35.6 |
| 57½ | 33⅛ | Surface Trsfms♦ | 33½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 3½ | 1½ | Tanfield♦ | 3¼ | ... | ... | -9.0 |
| 472 | 345 | Thorpe FW♦‡ | 356½ | -5½ | ... | 24.8 |
| 2⅝ | ⅝ | TP Group♦ | 2⅛ | ... | ... | -3.3 |
| 95½ | 48½ | Transense Tech♦ | 84½ | +1 | ... | 62.1 |
| 3500 | 3070 | Ultra Electrncs | 3500 | +6 | ... | 37.4 |
| 435 | 284½ | Vesuvius | 400¾ | +5¾ | ... | 10.6 |
| 1530 | 840 | Videndum | 840 | +7 | ... | 15.4 |
| 323½ | 205 | Volex♦ | 215½ | -2 | ... | 11.7 |
| 2021 | 1328½ | **Weir** | 1800 | -12 | ... | 30.4 |
| 3935 | 1464 | XP Power‡ | 2090 | +35 | ... | 11.1 |
| 182½ | 111¼ | Zytronic♦ | 142 | +2 | ... | 47.3 |

## Health

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1475 | 1049 | Abcam♦ | 1226 | +123 | ... | ... |
| 316 | 229 | AdvancedMedical♦ | 229 | +3½ | ... | 36.0 |
| 26 | 5 | Allergy Therap♦# | 6¼ | +1¼ | ... | -7.3 |
| 156 | 19½ | Angle♦ | 19½ | ... | ... | -2.6 |
| 603 | 217½ | Anpario♦ | 217½ | -5 | ... | 11.4 |
| 11802 | 9536 | **AstraZeneca** | 10998 | +22 | ... | ... |
| 40¾ | 29 | Circassia Group♦ | 34 | ... | ... | 34.0 |
| 248½ | 196⅞ | **Convatec** | 219 | -4½ | ... | 51.1 |
| 64 | 25⅜ | Creighton | 33 | ... | ... | 6.3 |
| 4272 | 2520 | Dechra Pharma‡ | 2578 | +16 | ... | 38.4 |
| 1¼ | ¾ | Deltex Medical♦ | 1⅛ | ... | ... | -6.7 |
| 26⅞ | 14½ | e-Therapeutics♦ | 15 | +½ | ... | ... |
| 167½ | 82½ | Eco Animal Hlth♦ | 108½ | +10½ | ... | 13.1 |
| 54⅜ | 26 | EKF Diagnostics♦ | 26⅛ | -¼ | ... | 7.4 |
| 56⅞ | 24⅝ | Futura Medical♦ | 42¾ | ... | ... | ... |
| 3272 | 2234 | Genus‡ | 2942 | +30 | ... | 52.3 |
| 1828½ | 1296 | **GSK**‡ | 1437¾ | -⅜ | ... | 16.6 |
| ¾ | ¼ | Gunsynd♦ | ¼ | ... | ... | 3.1 |
| 335¾ | 246⅛ | **Haleon**‡ | 332½ | +3½ | ... | ... |
| 2122 | 1190½ | Hikma Pharms‡ | 1673 | -32½ | ... | 12.5 |
| 335 | 134½ | Hutchmed China♦ | 233 | -9¼ | ... | ... |
| ... | ... | Immunodiag Sys♦ | 378 | ... | ... | ... |
| 7¾ | 1½ | ImmuPharma♦ | 1¾ | ... | ... | -0.5 |
| 7025 | 1344 | Indivior | 1414 | +8 | ... | 80.9 |
| 112½ | 47½ | Inspiration Health♦ | 50 | +½ | ... | 7.7 |
| 41½ | 22½ | IXICO♦ | 22½ | +1 | ... | 7.2 |
| 501½ | 343½ | Mediclinic | 499½ | +1½ | ... | 31.2 |

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3¾ | 1½ | N4 Pharma♦ | 1¾ | ... | ... | -2.1 |
| 88.42 | 73.32 | Novartis | CHF75.80 | -0.40 | ... | 8.5 |
| 5⅝ | 2¼ | Omega Diags♦ | 3¼ | ... | ... | -1.2 |
| 14 | 4¾ | Ovoca Bio♦ | 6 | ... | ... | -1.7 |
| 699 | 297 | Oxford Biomedica | 446 | +3 | ... | 20.0 |
| 5 | 2 | Physiomics♦ | 4⅛ | ... | ... | ... |
| 5 | 3¼ | Proteome Scies♦ | 3¾ | +¼ | ... | ... |
| 6808 | 5450 | **Reckitt Benckiser** | 5984 | -38 | ... | ... |
| 63½ | 31⅜ | RUA Life Sciences♦ | 55 | ... | ... | -5.3 |
| 295 | 70 | Sareum Hldgs♦ | 87½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 1321½ | 984½ | **Smith & Neph** | 1152 | -25½ | ... | 26.1 |
| 250 | 206 | Spire Hcare | 206½ | -1½ | ... | ... |
| 35 | 8½ | Synairgen♦ | 8½ | ... | ... | -0.3 |
| ⅝ | ⅜ | Tissue Regenix♦ | ½ | ... | ... | -7.2 |
| 47½ | 17⅛ | Totally♦ | 17⅛ | +⅛ | ... | 27.1 |
| 420 | 292 | Tristel♦‡ | 325 | ... | ... | 67.0 |
| 34¼ | 8⅞ | ValiRx♦ | 8⅞ | ... | ... | ... |

## Industrials

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 148 | 54⅜ | Accsys Tech♦ | 63 | ... | ... | ... |
| 4826⅜ | 3406⅝ | BASF | 4098⅝ | -16¼ | ... | 8.0 |
| 5939⅛ | 4157¾ | Bayer DM50 | 4944 | -60⅞ | ... | 57.7 |
| 235 | 46½ | Biome Tech♦ | 83 | ... | ... | -2.7 |
| 3⅝ | 1½ | Byotrol♦ | 1½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 7 | 6¼ | Camb Gbl Timber♦ | 6¾ | ... | ... | -9.0 |
| 81⅜ | 50⅞ | Coats Grp | 75⅝ | -⅜ | ... | 16.8 |
| 8028 | 5908 | **Croda** | 6464 | +62 | ... | 28.1 |
| 1250 | 615 | Cropper (James)♦ | 615 | -20 | ... | 18.7 |
| 129 | 87⅝ | Elementis | 113 | +1 | ... | ... |
| 33½ | 11½ | Hardide♦ | 11½ | ... | ... | -2.2 |
| 2373 | 1784 | **Johnson Math** | 1955 | +4½ | ... | 24.6 |
| 1705 | 1287 | **Mondi** | 1301 | -7 | ... | 9.9 |
| 100 | 75 | Robinson♦ | 97½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 368½ | 241¾ | **DS Smith** | 310⅞ | +1 | ... | 17.6 |
| 759⅜ | 454⅜ | Swire Pacific | 622⅜ | -14⅜ | ... | ... |
| 21½ | 9¼ | Symph Environ♦ | 9¼ | ... | ... | ... |
| 332¾ | 88 | Synthomer | 128¾ | +2½ | ... | 2.6 |
| 2733½ | 2168½ | Takeda Pharm | 2633⅝ | -70⅝ | ... | 14.7 |
| 7 | 3¼ | Velocys♦ | 3⅝ | ... | ... | -4.6 |
| 1944 | 1545 | Victrex | 1667 | -12 | ... | 19.8 |
| 651 | 455 | Wynnstay Group♦ | 455 | -5 | ... | 10.4 |
| 410 | 233 | Zotefoams | 352½ | +2½ | ... | 21.2 |

## Leisure

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 224⅛ | 59 | 888 Hldgs | 59 | -3¼ | ... | 4.3 |
| 850 | 542 | Accesso Tech♦ | 672 | -8 | ... | 17.6 |
| 680 | 370 | Best of the Best♦ | 575 | -5 | ... | 6.4 |
| 1396½ | 501⅜ | Carnival | 669½ | +1¾ | ... | -1.0 |
| 140 | 99 | Celtic♦ | 111½ | ... | ... | 11.0 |
| 36⅛ | 1⅞ | Cineworld | 2¼ | ... | ... | ... |
| 384½ | 215⅛ | Domino's Pizza | 274⅛ | +2⅜ | ... | 13.9 |
| 1722½ | 1075½ | **Entain**‡ | 1204 | -11 | ... | 26.9 |
| 14250 | 7614 | **Flutter Ent** | 14205 | +85 | ... | ... |
| 33⅜ | 22 | Gaming Realms♦ | 26⅜ | +⅜ | ... | ... |
| 290 | 290 | Heavitree♦‡ | 290 | ... | ... | 17.4 |
| 185 | 65 | Heavitree A♦‡ | 100 | ... | ... | 6.0 |
| 145 | 120 | Hermes Pacific♦ | 120 | ... | ... | ... |
| 5784 | 4193 | **InterContinental Hotels** | 5268 | -64 | ... | 49.3 |
| 1¼ | ⅞ | Minoan Gp♦ | ⅞ | ... | ... | -6.9 |
| 243⅜ | 102 | Mitch & Butlers | 159½ | +1 | ... | ... |
| 250 | 92½ | On The Beach | 138¾ | -2⅛ | ... | -7.3 |
| 1600 | 1020 | PPHE Hotels | 1190 | +25 | ... | -9.6 |
| 144 | 52⅜ | Rank Grp | 70 | -2⅛ | ... | 9.4 |
| 78¾ | 26⅝ | Restaurant Gp | 41½ | -⅝ | ... | -7.8 |
| 50½ | 26 | Rotala♦ | 48½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 37¼ | 15½ | Sportech♦ | 19 | -⅛ | ... | ... |
| 277⅞ | 184¾ | SSP | 240⅜ | -5⅜ | ... | -4.6 |
| 5¾ | 2¾ | Tasty♦ | 2¾ | ... | ... | 3.7 |
| 295 | 65 | Tintra♦ | 107½ | -2½ | ... | -1.9 |
| 2493 | 1054½ | Tui | 1413½ | +3½ | ... | ... |
| 3⅜ | 1⅛ | Webis Holdings♦ | 2 | -⅛ | ... | ... |
| 842 | 389¾ | Wetherspoon JD | 581 | -11 | ... | -5.4 |
| 3151 | 2285 | **Whitbread** | 2889 | -41 | ... | ... |
| 1470 | 870 | Young & Co - A♦ | 1066 | +26 | ... | ... |
| 818 | 564 | Young & Co - N/V♦ | 702 | -27 | ... | ... |

## Media

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ⅝ | ⅛ | 7digital Gp♦ | ⅝ | ... | ... | -5.7 |
| 87½ | 52½ | Aeorema Comms♦ | 69 | ... | ... | 19.0 |
| 43½ | 20½ | Altitude Group♦ | 40 | ... | ... | ... |
| 85½ | 70½ | Arcontech Grp♦ | 80 | ... | ... | 11.0 |
| 350¾ | 176⅛ | Ascential | 257 | +3⅛ | ... | ... |
| 684⅜ | 486⅛ | **Auto Trader** | 607½ | +8 | ... | 29.9 |
| 492 | 350 | Bloomsbury Pub | 458 | ... | ... | 18.8 |
| 8⅛ | 3¼ | Bonhill Group♦ | 5 | ... | ... | ... |
| 172½ | 52 | Catalyst Media♦ | 157½ | ... | ... | ... |
| ⅜ | ⅛ | Catenae♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -0.3 |
| ... | ... | Daily Mail‡ | 270 | -2½ | ... | 10.3 |
| 195 | 100 | DCD Media♦# | 100 | -30 | ... | 5.0 |
| 71½ | 43 | Ebiquity♦ | 52½ | +½ | ... | ... |
| 1466 | 898 | Euromoney In Inv | 1460 | +2 | ... | ... |
| 2770 | 1108 | Future | 1140 | +14 | ... | 19.6 |
| 1400 | 930 | GlobalData♦ | 1250 | -5 | ... | 61.8 |
| 112¾ | 50 | Hyve Group | 112¾ | +½ | ... | ... |
| 187½ | 46½ | IG Design Grp♦ | 172 | ... | ... | 25.2 |
| 697 | 501¾ | **Informa** | 674 | -18¾ | ... | ... |
| 90 | 55⅛ | ITV | 82½ | -⅛ | ... | 8.8 |
| 10¼ | 4½ | Jaywing♦ | 4¾ | ... | ... | ... |
| 12¼ | 1¾ | Live Company Gp♦ | 1¾ | ... | ... | -0.3 |
| ... | ... | Mediazest♦ | ... | ... | ... | -6.0 |
| 47½ | 26½ | Merit Grp♦ | 26½ | -½ | ... | -7.8 |
| 57½ | 21½ | Mirada♦ | 21½ | ... | ... | -0.9 |
| 68½ | 42 | Mission Group♦ | 53 | ... | ... | 8.9 |
| 247⅜ | 167 | Moneysupermarket | 247⅜ | +4⅜ | ... | 25.2 |
| 1895⅝ | 1234¼ | News Corp A | 1316¾ | +32 | ... | 21.4 |
| 1916¼ | 1260¾ | News Corp B | 1324⅞ | +33⅝ | ... | 21.6 |
| 1458 | 755 | Next 15 Comms♦ | 897 | -8 | ... | ... |
| 995⅛ | 734½ | **Pearson**‡ | 819¾ | -4¾ | ... | 39.2 |
| 107 | 63½ | Photo-Me | 107 | +5 | ... | 18.6 |
| 4⅜ | 2 | Primorus Inv♦ | 3⅝ | ... | ... | 6.7 |
| 187½ | 108½ | Quarto | 157½ | -1½ | ... | 8.7 |
| 198½ | 67 | Reach | 76⅞ | +⅞ | ... | 85.5 |
| 1⅞ | ¾ | REACT Grp♦ | 1 | ... | ... | 15.3 |
| 2583 | 2081 | **Relx** | 2583 | -22 | ... | 34.0 |
| 679⅜ | 445⅜ | **Rightmove** | 564 | +5¾ | ... | 31.9 |
| 150 | 65 | SpaceandPeople♦ | 80½ | -1 | ... | ... |
| 332 | 247 | STV Group | 256 | +2 | ... | 6.2 |
| 310 | 122½ | System1 Group♦ | 160 | ... | ... | 7.6 |
| 3403¼ | 2325⅞ | 21st Cent Fox Inc A | 2767½ | +63¼ | ... | 15.1 |
| 3122⅝ | 2193¾ | 21st Cent Fox Inc B | 2541⅞ | +60¾ | ... | 13.9 |
| ... | ... | Vela Tech♦ | ... | ... | ... | 5.0 |
| 356 | 222 | Wilmington‡ | 298 | +2 | ... | 18.9 |
| 1078½ | 725¾ | **WPP** | 945¾ | -7¾ | ... | 18.0 |
| 123½ | 77½ | Zinc Media♦ | 87½ | ... | ... | -5.5 |

## Natural resources

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | ⅜ | ADM Energy♦ | ⅝ | ... | ... | ... |
| ¼ | ... | Advance Energy♦# | ⅛ | ... | ... | -0.1 |
| 41⅜ | 17¾ | AFC Energy♦ | 21 | +⅞ | ... | ... |
| ... | ... | Afentra PLC | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ⅛ | ... | Alba Mineral Res♦ | ... | ... | ... | -2.2 |
| ⅞ | ⅜ | Alien Metals♦ | ⅜ | ... | ... | ... |
| 112½ | 66⅝ | Alumina | 76¼ | -¾ | ... | 15.9 |
| 1¼ | ⅝ | Aminex | 1 | ... | ... | -6.0 |
| 2 | ⅝ | Amur Mins Corp♦ | 1⅝ | ... | ... | ... |
| 969245⅛ | 4648⅞ | Anglo Amer Plat | 4648⅞ | -163¾ | ... | 3.3 |
| 4170½ | 2547½ | **Anglo American**‡ | 2586½ | -17½ | ... | 5.1 |
| 118 | 64 | Anglo Asian Mng♦ | 114 | -1½ | ... | 9.8 |
| 1805 | 991½ | **Antofagasta** | 1557 | +20½ | ... | 16.1 |
| 5¼ | 2⅞ | Arc Minerals♦ | 3½ | +¼ | ... | 2.5 |
| 4¾ | 2½ | Ariana Res♦ | 2¾ | ... | ... | 3.8 |
| ¾ | ⅜ | Arkle Resources♦ | ½ | ... | ... | -1.8 |
| 4½ | 1⅜ | Armadale Cap♦ | 1½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 2¼ | ⅞ | Asiamet Rsrcs♦ | 1⅛ | ... | ... | ... |
| 410 | 188 | Atalaya Mine♦ | 350 | +25 | ... | 4.4 |
| ¼ | ... | Baron Oil♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | ... |
| 15¼ | 2 | Beowulf Mining♦ | 2 | ... | ... | -8.9 |
| ⅛ | ... | Bezant Res♦ | ... | ... | ... | -1.3 |
| 3019 | 2034 | BHP Group‡ | 2361½ | -10 | ... | 10.3 |
| 6⅞ | 1½ | Border & Sthn Pet♦ | 3 | ... | ... | ... |
| 43⅞ | 14¼ | Bougainville | 17⅜ | -1⅝ | ... | ... |
| 4¾ | 1¼ | BowLeven♦ | 1¼ | ... | ... | -1.5 |
| 567½ | 360⅜ | **BP**‡ | 498⅝ | -5⅝ | ... | 18.0 |
| 19¼ | 8¾ | Cadence Min♦ | 10¾ | -¼ | ... | 1.0 |
| 3½ | 1⅝ | Cadogan Petrol | 2⅛ | ... | ... | 29.8 |
| 1285 | 825 | Caledonia Mining♦ | 1285 | +55 | ... | 12.5 |
| 261¾ | 194⅜ | Capricorn Energy | 233⅛ | -2¾ | ... | 1.8 |
| 8⅜ | 2¼ | Caspian Sunrise♦‡ | 6⅜ | +⅛ | ... | ... |
| 125½ | 74⅜ | Centamin | 104 | +4 | ... | 16.1 |
| 292½ | 207 | Cent Asia Metals♦ | 255 | +1 | ... | 7.4 |
| 19½ | 9⅜ | Chaarat Gold♦# | 10⅞ | ... | ... | ... |
| 23⅞ | 10⅜ | Chariot Oil & Gas♦ | 13½ | -⅜ | ... | ... |
| 6½ | 1¼ | China Nonferr Gold♦ | 1½ | ... | ... | ... |
| ⅝ | ... | Clontarf Energy♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -2.9 |
| 35¾ | 15¼ | Condor Gld♦ | 22⅜ | -1 | ... | ... |
| 1½ | ⅛ | Corcel♦ | ¼ | ... | ... | -0.3 |
| 6927¼ | 74½ | DRD Gold | 74½ | +3¼ | ... | 8.8 |
| 1⅝ | ½ | ECR Minerals♦ | ⅝ | ... | ... | -3.9 |
| 22 | 6⅞ | Edenville Energy♦ | 7 | ... | ... | -0.4 |
| 11¾ | ⅝ | Empyrean Energy♦ | 1⅛ | ... | ... | -8.7 |
| 2068 | 1461 | **Endeavour**‡ | 1843 | +52 | ... | 27.4 |
| 36½ | 16¾ | EnQuest | 18⅛ | +⅛ | ... | 1.1 |
| 13½ | 3½ | Eurasia Mining♦ | 3¾ | ... | ... | ... |
| 3 | ⅞ | Europa Oil&Gas♦ | 1⅛ | ... | ... | 10.2 |
| 195¼ | 97½ | Ferrexpo | 117⅝ | +1⅛ | ... | 0.9 |
| 968 | 644 | **Fresnillo** | 735 | +8 | ... | 17.4 |
| ... | ... | G3 Exploration# | 28 | ... | ... | -2.6 |
| 41½ | 20½ | Galantas Gold♦ | 20½ | -½ | ... | -3.5 |
| 7¼ | 3 | GCM Resources♦ | 3 | ... | ... | -2.5 |
| 72⅞ | 27⅛ | Gem Diamonds | 27⅛ | +⅝ | ... | 2.8 |
| 32⅞ | 12⅛ | Getech♦ | 13⅞ | +⅝ | ... | -3.3 |
| 578 | 400 | **Glencore** | 451½ | +1⅜ | ... | 16.5 |
| ⅝ | ¼ | Global Petrol♦ | ¼ | ... | ... | -3.3 |
| 107958¾ | 1010⅛ | Gold Fields | 1010⅛ | +16⅜ | ... | 15.5 |
| 12½ | 6¾ | Goldplat♦ | 9 | ... | ... | 6.8 |
| 10⅜ | 2⅝ | Goldstone Res♦ | 2⅝ | ... | ... | ... |
| 15⅝ | 6⅞ | Greatld Gld♦ | 6⅞ | ... | ... | ... |
| 120½ | 70 | Griffin Mining♦ | 76 | +1½ | ... | 8.3 |
| 310 | 171 | Gulf Keystone | 182⅜ | +7 | ... | 11.4 |
| 25⅞ | 5⅝ | Harland & Wolff Gp♦ | 13½ | -½ | ... | 1.0 |
| 147⅛ | 51½ | Hochschild | 77 | +3¾ | ... | 7.4 |
| 173 | 85 | Horizonte Minrls♦ | 139 | +1 | ... | ... |
| 356½ | 187½ | Hunting PLC | 238 | +4 | ... | -6.0 |
| 106½ | 15¾ | IGas Energy♦ | 17¼ | +¼ | ... | -0.8 |
| ½ | ... | Independ Res♦ | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 317 | 219 | Indus Gas♦ | 219 | -4 | ... | 22.7 |
| 1 | ¼ | Ironveld♦ | ¼ | ... | ... | -4.7 |
| 379¼ | 78⅛ | ITM Power♦ | 78⅛ | ... | ... | ... |
| 17 | 7⅞ | Jubilee Metals♦ | 8½ | +⅛ | ... | 7.0 |
| 3¼ | 1⅝ | Karel Diamd Res♦ | 1⅝ | -¼ | ... | -6.8 |
| 1¼ | ½ | KEFI Gold and Copper♦ | ¾ | ... | ... | -3.1 |
| 526 | 380½ | Kenmare Res | 462 | +1½ | ... | 5.3 |
| 32 | 5¾ | Lamprell# | 8⅞ | ... | ... | -0.7 |
| 24¼ | 11⅞ | Landore Res♦ | 13¼ | -½ | ... | -3.0 |
| ⅝ | ⅜ | Lansdowne O&G♦ | ⅜ | ... | ... | ... |
| 18½ | 12½ | Leeds Group♦ | 12½ | -½ | ... | -2.0 |
| 6⅜ | 1⅞ | Lexington Gold♦ | 5¼ | ... | ... | ... |
| 21½ | 2⅝ | MC Mining♦ | 9¼ | +1 | ... | -1.9 |
| 1¾ | ¾ | Metals Explorn♦ | 1⅝ | ... | ... | 2.9 |
| ⅝ | ⅛ | Nostra Terra♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -1.2 |
| 26½ | ⅛ | Nostrum O&G | 12¾ | -⅞ | ... | -0.1 |
| ... | ... | Oil Search | 218⅞ | -5⅜ | ... | 60.3 |
| ¼ | ⅛ | Oilex♦# | ⅛ | ... | ... | -3.7 |
| ¼ | ... | Oriole Resources♦ | ... | ... | ... | -1.1 |
| ⅞ | ½ | Ormonde Mining♦# | ¾ | ... | ... | -3.1 |
| 17⅛ | 5¾ | Orosur Mining♦ | 8¼ | ... | ... | ... |
| 24 | 12¾ | Pan African Res♦ | 15⅝ | +½ | ... | 5.1 |
| 149½ | 23½ | Pantheon Res♦ | 26⅛ | +1¼ | ... | ... |
| 79 | 39 | Parkmead Grp♦ | 39½ | +1⅛ | ... | -3.4 |
| ⅝ | ⅜ | Pathfinder Mins♦ | ⅜ | ... | ... | -3.9 |
| 134 | 73 | Petra Diamonds | 74 | +1½ | ... | 2.4 |
| 4 | 1¼ | Petrel Resources♦ | 1¼ | ... | ... | -6.6 |
| 5⅜ | 1⅝ | Petro Matad♦ | 3¾ | ... | ... | ... |
| 157⅞ | 54 | Petrofac | 54 | -3⅞ | ... | -1.4 |
| 1¾ | ¼ | Petroneft Res♦ | ¼ | ... | ... | -0.9 |
| 4⅞ | ⅞ | Petropavlovsk# | 1⅛ | -⅛ | ... | 1.6 |
| 7½ | 3¾ | Phoenix Global♦ | 6½ | +¼ | ... | -1.6 |
| 5⅞ | 1⅝ | Plexus Holdings♦ | 3¼ | ... | ... | -0.8 |
| 350 | 121 | Polymetal Intl | 215 | -7½ | ... | ... |
| 698 | 499 | Porvair | 650 | +20 | ... | 25.0 |
| 19¼ | 3⅝ | Prospex Energy♦ | 9¾ | +½ | ... | ... |
| 17 | 8½ | Proton Motor Power S♦ | 10¼ | ... | ... | -1.8 |
| 4 | 1¾ | Providence Res♦ | 3¼ | ... | ... | 29.0 |
| 2¾ | 1 | Quadrise Fuels Intl♦ | 1½ | ... | ... | -5.8 |
| 30¾ | 3½ | Rambler Met&Min♦# | 5⅜ | +¼ | ... | 0.1 |
| ⅜ | ⅛ | Reabold Resources♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -3.5 |
| ⅝ | ⅛ | Red Rock Res♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -1.3 |
| 7053⅛ | 4820¾ | Rio Tinto Ltd | 6226¼ | -69¼ | ... | 6.5 |
| 6377 | 4486 | **Rio Tinto**‡ | 5288 | -31 | ... | 5.5 |
| 41⅛ | 21 | San Leon Energy♦ | 22 | +¾ | ... | 8.2 |
| ⅝ | ⅛ | Scirocco Energy♦ | ¼ | ... | ... | ... |
| 59 | 22½ | Serabi Gold♦ | 30¼ | -¼ | ... | 4.1 |
| 450 | 211 | Serica Energy♦ | 220 | ... | ... | ... |
| 12½ | 8½ | Shanta Gold♦ | 11¼ | -⅛ | ... | 7.1 |
| 2604½ | 1936⅜ | **Shell**‡ | 2272 | -45½ | ... | 11.9 |
| 2⅞ | ⅞ | Sound Energy♦ | 1⅝ | ... | ... | 10.3 |
| ⅛ | ... | Sunrise Resources♦ | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ¼ | ... | Tertiary Minerals♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -3.8 |
| ⅞ | ¼ | Thor Mining♦ | ¼ | ... | ... | -1.7 |
| 5366½ | 3890⅞ | Total Eng SE | 4720 | -90½ | ... | 10.8 |
| ¼ | ⅛ | Tower Resources♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -2.8 |
| 61 | 29⅜ | Tullow Oil | 29⅝ | ... | ... | 2.9 |
| ⅛ | ... | UK Oil & Gas♦ | ... | ... | ... | -2.0 |
| 460 | 135 | URU Metals♦ | 150 | ... | ... | 4.8 |
| 1⅞ | ⅛ | Vast Res♦ | ½ | ... | ... | -0.1 |
| 4 | 3¾ | Victoria Oil&Gas♦# | 3¾ | ... | ... | -1.8 |
| 3 | 2⅝ | W Resources♦# | 2⅝ | ... | ... | -0.3 |
| 5⅝ | 2⅛ | Westmount Engy♦ | 2⅜ | ... | ... | -0.5 |
| 251⅝ | 104½ | Wood Grp (J) | 206⅝ | +2⅛ | ... | -8.5 |
| 8 | 1⅛ | Woodbois♦ | 1⅛ | ... | ... | 4.4 |
| 6⅞ | 1⅜ | Xtract Resources♦ | 1⅜ | ... | ... | -2.4 |
| 7⅝ | 4 | Zephyr Energy♦ | 4¾ | +⅛ | ... | -6.1 |

## Professional & support services

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4960 | 2240 | 4imprint Grp | 4960 | +30 | ... | 83.7 |
| 555 | 457 | Andrews Sykes♦ | 535 | ... | ... | 17.1 |
| 5874 | 3359 | **Ashtead** | 5000 | -104 | ... | 24.3 |
| 29½ | 1½ | Asimilar Group♦ | 2⅜ | ... | ... | 0.1 |
| 137½ | 58 | AssetCo♦ | 62 | ... | ... | 0.3 |
| 53½ | 37 | Avisen♦ | 47 | ... | ... | ... |
| 148 | 106 | Begbies Traynor♦ | 123¾ | -1⅝ | ... | ... |
| 228 | 155 | Blancco Tech♦ | 187 | ... | ... | 67.0 |
| 3163 | 2575 | **Bunzl** | 3047 | -7 | ... | 23.1 |
| 42⅝ | 20⅛ | Capita | 37½ | -¾ | ... | 2.8 |
| 45 | 39½ | CEPS♦ | 39½ | ... | ... | -8.9 |
| 130 | 105 | Christie Group♦ | 114 | ... | ... | 48.5 |
| 1995 | 1576½ | **Compass** | 1995 | -13 | ... | 48.5 |
| 280 | 97 | CPPGroup♦ | 219 | -8 | ... | ... |
| 82½ | 49½ | Croma Security♦ | 49½ | ... | ... | 7.1 |
| 6268 | 4030 | **DCC** | 4358 | -6 | ... | 14.4 |
| 115½ | 53¾ | De La Rue | 53¾ | +¼ | ... | 7.0 |
| 2970 | 2158 | Diploma | 2776 | +56 | ... | 49.6 |
| 914 | 597 | Discoverie | 778 | +2 | ... | 63.7 |
| 40½ | 23½ | Driver Group♦‡ | 28½ | -½ | ... | 13.5 |
| 335 | 175⅛ | Essentra‡ | 179⅜ | +1½ | ... | 20.1 |
| 3160 | 2285 | **Experian** | 2638 | -21 | ... | 33.8 |
| 12380 | 8680 | Ferguson‡ | 10690 | -105 | ... | 15.7 |
| 269 | 215 | FIH Group♦ | 269 | -1 | ... | ... |
| 11 | 5¼ | Grafenia♦ | 9¼ | +¾ | ... | -6.8 |
| 610 | 317 | Hargeaves Serv♦‡ | 404 | +2½ | ... | 4.2 |
| 735 | 413 | Impellam Grp♦‡ | 617½ | +2½ | ... | 33.7 |
| 28⅛ | 4 | Ince G♦# | 5⅛ | +⅛ | ... | 2.9 |
| 5344 | 3619 | **Intertek** | 4002 | -37 | ... | 22.5 |
| 272⅜ | 115⅜ | IWG | 150¾ | -8⅜ | ... | -5.7 |
| 122 | 77 | Johnson Srvce♦ | 121 | +¾ | ... | 75.6 |
| 148½ | 99 | Journeo♦ | 148½ | +11 | ... | 33.3 |
| 89 | 56½ | Kier Gp | 67⅛ | -⅜ | ... | 6.5 |
| 1400 | 1080 | Latham (J)♦ | 1205 | ... | ... | 6.6 |
| 1080 | 695 | Lok'n Store♦ | 762 | -4 | ... | 23.1 |
| 3850 | 2300 | Lon Security♦ | 3050 | ... | ... | 16.8 |
| 403 | 220 | LSL Prop Services | 275 | +15 | ... | 7.6 |
| 131 | 86 | Macfarlane | 105½ | +1 | ... | 12.2 |
| 335 | 102½ | Maintel Hldgs♦ | 115 | -7½ | ... | 3.5 |
| 2300 | 8¼ | Malvern Intl♦ | 12¾ | ... | ... | ... |
| 224 | 182 | Mears Group | 195½ | -1 | ... | 17.0 |
| 608 | 534 | Menzies (John) | 607 | -1 | ... | 48.0 |
| 83⅞ | 51 | Mitie Gp | 81⅛ | -1¼ | ... | 40.6 |
| 13¾ | 3¾ | MobilityOne♦ | 7¾ | -¼ | ... | 5.7 |
| 55 | 25 | Newmark Sec♦ | 50 | -1 | ... | ... |
| 7 | 3½ | Norm Broadbent♦ | 5¼ | ... | ... | -9.9 |
| 64½ | 40 | Northern Bear♦ | 40 | ... | ... | 4.0 |
| 286 | 198 | NWF Grp♦‡ | 248 | -10 | ... | ... |
| 519½ | 362⅛ | PageGroup | 448⅛ | +1½ | ... | 12.1 |
| 73 | 46 | PCI-PAL♦ | 50 | +1½ | ... | ... |
| 13 | 8¼ | Petards♦ | 10½ | ... | ... | 19.0 |
| 26½ | 13 | PHSC♦ | 13 | ... | ... | 23.6 |
| 3⅛ | ⅞ | PowerHouse Egy♦ | ⅞ | ... | ... | -1.7 |
| 98 | 61 | Record | 83⅛ | ... | ... | 22.8 |
| 439½ | 283½ | Redde Northgate | 348 | -6 | ... | 8.7 |
| 750 | 555 | Renew Hldgs♦ | 688 | +15 | ... | 17.0 |
| 851 | 489 | Renewi | 621 | +1 | ... | 13.1 |
| 564 | 445 | **Rentokil** | 564 | +3¾ | ... | 40.0 |
| 472 | 295 | Restore♦ | 303 | -4 | ... | 36.0 |
| 581 | 331½ | Ricardo‡ | 546 | -8 | ... | 48.7 |
| 700 | 440 | Robert Walters | 481 | -19 | ... | 11.0 |
| 20 | 11½ | Roebuck Food Grp♦ | 17¾ | ... | ... | 2.7 |
| 239 | 95⅜ | RPS Group | 221 | -1 | ... | ... |
| 1159 | 812 | **RS Group** | 906 | -4½ | ... | 22.9 |
| 35 | 16½ | RTC Group♦ | 18½ | +½ | ... | ... |
| 474⅜ | 264⅜ | RWS Hldgs♦ | 310 | -3 | ... | 28.4 |
| 440 | 365 | Science Group♦ | 387 | ... | ... | 17.8 |
| 188¼ | 136½ | Serco | 153¾ | -1 | ... | 6.3 |
| 57½ | 27½ | Smiths News | 46⅛ | -½ | ... | 4.4 |
| 3596 | 2452 | **Smurfit Kappa** | 2920 | -35 | ... | 13.3 |
| 64⅜ | 32½ | Staffline Gp♦ | 37 | ... | ... | 28.5 |
| 484½ | 317½ | SThree | 444½ | -½ | ... | 14.3 |
| 137½ | 95 | Synectics♦ | 117½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 34½ | 21⅝ | Thruvision Group♦ | 24 | ... | ... | -8.7 |
| 94¼ | 37½ | Tribal♦ | 37½ | +¾ | ... | 11.7 |
| 92½ | 49 | Vianet♦ | 74 | -½ | ... | ... |
| 980 | 660 | Vp | 680 | ... | ... | 16.7 |
| 2⅞ | 1 | Westminster♦ | 1⅜ | ... | ... | -1.7 |

## Real estate

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 177⅞ | 95½ | Shaftesbury Cap | 113 | -½ | ... | 33.2 |

## Retailing

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 95½ | 37⅞ | AO World | 63½ | -¼ | ... | ... |
| 586 | 295½ | **B&M European** | 474⅝ | -6⅞ | ... | 11.0 |
| 42⅝ | 20¼ | Brown (N)♦ | 31 | +½ | ... | 9.1 |
| 102⅛ | 40⅜ | Card Factory | 89⅞ | +½ | ... | ... |
| 2122 | 1549 | CVS Group♦ | 1853 | -23 | ... | 51.9 |
| 222½ | 104¾ | DFS Furn | 130 | -⅜ | ... | 6.9 |
| 1275 | 670½ | Dunelm‡ | 1148 | -16 | ... | 15.4 |
| 949½ | 600 | **Frasers Group** | 755 | -5 | ... | 33.5 |
| 2820 | 1673 | Greggs | 2682 | +14 | ... | 23.4 |
| 271¾ | 124⅝ | Halfords | 176¼ | -3⅛ | ... | 5.8 |
| 824⅛ | 480⅞ | Howden Joinery | 687¾ | -7⅜ | ... | 12.9 |
| 941 | 647 | Inchcape | 758 | -109 | ... | 25.6 |
| 4⅞ | 1⅝ | IQ-AI | 2¾ | ... | ... | -8.1 |
| 186⅝ | 89⅛ | **JD Sports** | 171 | -1⅛ | ... | 20.6 |
| 294½ | 203 | **Kingfisher** | 263⅝ | -7½ | ... | 6.6 |
| 97½ | 61½ | Lookers | 81½ | -⅜ | ... | 5.2 |
| 165¼ | 93⅛ | Marks & Spencer | 156¾ | +2 | ... | ... |
| 12⅜ | 6 | Mothercare♦ | 8½ | ... | ... | -5.3 |
| 397½ | 75½ | Naked Wines♦ | 98 | +1 | ... | ... |
| 7076 | 4383 | **Next** | 6804 | -16 | ... | 12.9 |
| 1244 | 393 | **Ocado** | 447⅜ | +12¼ | ... | ... |
| 28¾ | 16½ | Pendragon | 16½ | +¼ | ... | 5.1 |
| 396 | 257¾ | Pets at Home | 356¾ | +1⅛ | ... | 14.5 |
| 258 | 72⅞ | Saga | 130 | -½ | ... | ... |
| 271⅛ | 169⅞ | **Sainsbury's** | 262½ | -1½ | ... | 22.0 |
| 1714 | 1132½ | WH Smith | 1444 | -26½ | ... | ... |
| 30½ | 14¼ | Sosandar♦ | 22 | ... | ... | ... |
| 2¼ | 1¼ | Stanley Gbbns♦ | 1½ | ... | ... | -1.6 |
| ... | ... | Studio Retail# | 115 | -2½ | ... | 2.4 |
| 156 | 69½ | Ted Baker | 109¾ | ... | ... | ... |
| 286⅝ | 199⅛ | **Tesco** | 253¾ | -5⅛ | ... | 12.9 |
| 59½ | 38 | Topps Tiles | 47¾ | +⅛ | ... | 8.6 |

## Technology

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 108 | 62½ | Access Intell♦ | 79½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 143 | 26 | Aferian plc♦ | 29 | -¾ | ... | 5.2 |
| 187 | 126 | Alfa Financial | 137½ | -½ | ... | 21.5 |
| 22½ | 8¼ | Allied Minds | 13¾ | +3⅛ | ... | -1.2 |
| 430 | 290 | Aptitude Software | 371 | +8 | ... | 41.6 |
| 265 | 126½ | Bango♦ | 232½ | -4 | ... | ... |
| 53⅞ | 21 | BATM Adv Coms | 22⅜ | -½ | ... | 9.3 |
| 34 | 14¼ | Berkeley Res | 19½ | +¼ | ... | -8.3 |
| 21½ | 8 | Blackbird♦ | 8 | -⅛ | ... | ... |
| 1⅝ | ¾ | CloudCoCo Group♦ | 1⅛ | ... | ... | -2.8 |
| 2978 | 1810 | Computacenter | 2074 | +32 | ... | 12.8 |
| 96 | 65½ | Concurrent Tech♦ | 73 | ... | ... | 17.3 |
| 14½ | 6¼ | Corero♦ | 6¼ | ... | ... | ... |
| 2250 | 1265 | Craneware♦‡ | 1265 | -35 | ... | 57.6 |
| 3 | 1¾ | Crimson Tide♦ | 2½ | ... | ... | 17.3 |
| 24 | 11¼ | CyanConn Hldgs♦ | 17¾ | ... | ... | ... |
| 287½ | 221 | D4t4 Solutions♦ | 222½ | +1½ | ... | 26.3 |
| ⅛ | ... | DeepMatter Gp♦ | ... | ... | ... | -0.1 |
| 22½ | 13 | Dillistone Group♦ | 18½ | ... | ... | -5.3 |
| 1⅛ | ⅛ | EQTEC♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -2.3 |
| 1108 | 599 | FDM Group | 792 | +10 | ... | 27.5 |
| 16¾ | 9 | Filtronic♦ | 12⅛ | ... | ... | 32.7 |
| 2450 | 1230 | First Derivts♦ | 1734 | +38 | ... | ... |
| 647 | 313⅛ | GB Group♦ | 325½ | +15½ | ... | 24.8 |
| 180½ | 136 | GreshamTech | 161 | +6 | ... | ... |
| 143½ | 24¼ | Ilika♦ | 38½ | +1 | ... | ... |
| 132½ | 77½ | Ingenta♦ | 114 | -½ | ... | 66.6 |
| 77 | 38 | Intercede♦ | 62½ | ... | ... | 21.5 |
| 200 | 112 | Iomart♦ | 128 | +1 | ... | 14.0 |
| 59⅞ | 25¼ | IQE♦ | 27 | -¼ | ... | ... |
| 161 | 112½ | K3 Business Tch♦ | 112½ | ... | ... | -1.9 |
| 2014½ | 1073¼ | LG Electronics‡ | 1477 | +16⅛ | ... | 3.9 |
| ¼ | ⅛ | Location Sciences♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -3.0 |
| 532 | 256¼ | Micro Focus Intl | 532 | +½ | ... | -5.6 |
| 70½ | 45 | MTI Wireless♦‡ | 53 | -1 | ... | 17.6 |
| 55¾ | 18¾ | Nanoco Gp | 20⅞ | -½ | ... | ... |
| 108½ | 52 | Netcall♦ | 99 | -1 | ... | ... |
| 62½ | 41 | Northamber♦ | 42 | ... | ... | ... |
| 38½ | 10¼ | Online Blockchain♦ | 19½ | -1½ | ... | ... |
| 112½ | 76½ | Oxford Metrics♦ | 101½ | ... | ... | 44.1 |
| 9 | 5¾ | Parity♦ | 5¾ | ... | ... | -8.3 |
| 41½ | 28½ | Pennant Intl♦ | 37 | ... | ... | ... |
| 630 | 390¾ | Playtech | 540 | -9 | ... | 5.6 |
| 394⅛ | 297½ | QinetiQ | 328⅜ | -4⅜ | ... | 25.6 |
| 150 | 20½ | RM | 65 | ... | ... | 13.0 |
| 817⅛ | 595½ | **Sage** | 749 | +5⅜ | ... | 28.7 |
| 8¼ | 5¼ | Seeing Machines♦ | 5⅝ | -⅛ | ... | ... |
| 139 | 87 | Shearwater Grp♦ | 87 | ... | ... | 53.9 |
| 77½ | 31½ | Smartspace S'ware♦ | 38½ | ... | ... | -4.0 |
| 1786 | 1071 | Softcat | 1147 | +19 | ... | 22.4 |
| 286⅛ | 173½ | Spirent Comms‡ | 174⅝ | -1¾ | ... | 16.2 |
| 54 | 24¾ | SRT Marine♦ | 43¾ | +5¾ | ... | ... |
| 724⅛ | 442 | Tele. Ericsson | 444 | -1⅞ | ... | 8.1 |
| 90 | 72½ | Touchstar♦ | 82½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 1055 | 860 | Tracsis♦ | 895 | +5 | ... | ... |
| 20½ | 12¼ | Trakm8♦ | 13½ | -½ | ... | ... |
| 145 | 81 | Triad Grp | 135 | ... | ... | 14.8 |
| 1380 | 222½ | Wandisco♦# | 1310 | ... | ... | ... |
| 925 | 417½ | Water Intel♦ | 417½ | ... | ... | 22.9 |
| 273 | 144½ | Xaar | 168¾ | -1⅛ | ... | ... |
| 10 | ¼ | Yourgene♦ | ¼ | ... | ... | -0.2 |
| 200 | 101½ | Zoo Digital♦ | 200 | ... | ... | ... |

## Telecoms

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 197 | 100 | AdEPT Technology♦‡ | 197 | ... | ... | ... |
| 170⅞ | 106 | **Airtel Africa** | 106 | -¾ | ... | 9.4 |
| 196½ | 112 | **BT Group** | 139⅝ | -1⅜ | ... | 13.5 |
| 100¼ | 53½ | Currys plc | 56¼ | -2¼ | ... | 2.6 |
| 1514 | 1012 | Gamma Comms♦ | 1106 | +14 | ... | 20.0 |
| 144¼ | 100¼ | Helios Towers | 106½ | -½ | ... | -9.6 |
| 3009 | 1103½ | Just Eat T'away | 1541⅜ | -3 | ... | -3.3 |
| ¼ | ... | Mobile Streams♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -1.9 |
| 2¼ | ⅝ | Mobile Tornado♦ | 1⅞ | ... | ... | ... |
| 2500 | 1460 | Telecom Plus | 1898 | -22 | ... | 48.6 |
| 132⅛ | 83⅝ | **Vodafone** | 90¾ | -½ | ... | ... |

## Transport

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 340 | 226 | Braemar Ship | 294 | -6½ | ... | 9.7 |
| 591¾ | 285 | EasyJet | 477 | -7⅞ | ... | -3.0 |
| 11½ | 4½ | Esken Limited | 4¾ | ... | ... | -0.2 |
| 139½ | 93½ | FirstGroup | 102¼ | -2 | ... | 24.3 |
| 407 | 251 | Fisher (James) | 313 | -5½ | ... | -5.6 |
| 173½ | 93⅝ | **International Airlines** | 139¼ | -1½ | ... | -3.0 |
| 371 | 183½ | IDS | 229⅜ | -⅝ | ... | 2.6 |
| 439¼ | 299 | Irish Cont Uts | 431 | +16¼ | ... | ... |
| 1381½ | 667¾ | Jet2♦ | 1278½ | +9½ | ... | -6.8 |
| 272½ | 117⅛ | Natl Express | 117⅛ | -⅛ | ... | -6.9 |
| 1050 | 820 | Ocean Wilson | 910 | +22½ | ... | 4.6 |
| 106⅛ | 104 | Stagecoach | 104⅝ | ... | ... | 14.7 |
| 24 | 19½ | Sutton Harbour♦ | 22 | ... | ... | ... |
| 424 | 205½ | Wincanton | 205½ | +2½ | ... | 5.5 |
| 3256 | 1357½ | Wizz Air | 2729 | -57 | ... | -6.1 |

## Utilities

| 12 month High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 107½ | 67¼ | **Centrica** | 104¾ | +1½ | ... | 10.5 |
| 258 | 188¾ | ContourGlobal | 251 | +½ | ... | 28.3 |
| 831½ | 473⅜ | Drax Group | 593½ | -8½ | ... | 43.9 |
| 617½ | 476 | Jersey Electricity‡ | 476 | -5 | ... | 9.0 |
| 1245½ | 858⅜ | **National Grid** | 1056 | +9 | ... | 24.6 |
| 9¾ | 5⅝ | OPG Power♦ | 9¼ | ... | ... | 6.0 |
| 1113 | 755 | Pennon‡ | 861 | +4 | ... | 62.3 |
| ⅝ | ¼ | Rurelec♦ | ¼ | ... | ... | -0.2 |
| 3211 | 2213 | **Severn Trent** | 2833 | +37 | ... | ... |
| 1920 | 1428 | **SSE** | 1737 | +6½ | ... | 6.7 |
| 1176½ | 828⅛ | **United Utilities** | 1052½ | +11½ | ... | 96.5 |

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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**Record-breaking Olympic and Channel swimmer**
Greta Anderson
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# Register

Obituaries

# Patrick French

## Authorised yet unsparing biographer of VS Naipaul and Francis Younghusband, known for his unpalatable truths and mischief-making

In 2003, the Nobel laureate VS Naipaul approached Patrick French to write his authorised biography. French was reluctant to take up the challenge. He was all too aware that, despite his literary genius, Naipaul was notorious for his cantankerous behaviour.

The novelist not only relished in creating tension, he liked to insult his friends, family and even whole communities. "He said, or was said to have said, that Africa had no future, Islam was a calamity, France was fraudulent and interviewers were monkeys," French recalled. "The only Blacks he claimed he associated with were Conrad and Barbara."

French nevertheless agreed to the assignment, providing he could have absolute editorial control over the finished result, which Naipaul gave him and honoured.

There was a huge amount of material to sift through — 50,000 items, including the lengthy diaries of his widow, which Naipaul had not bothered to read.

French later said that his extensive conversations with Naipaul were the strangest experience of his professional life: "He could be angry, acute, open, self-pitying, funny, sarcastic, tearful — but he was always intense."

The resulting book, *The World is What it Is: The Authorised Biography of VS Naipaul*, published in 2008, is an explosive masterpiece in what is termed "confessional biography", thanks to what French called a combination of Naipaul's narcissism and humility. "He believed that a less than candid biography would be pointless."

Naipaul conceded to French that his treatment of his wife Pat probably hastened her death. He admitted to on occasion violently assaulting his mistress of 20 years, who he unceremoniously dumped before proposing to a woman he had met in Pakistan only a month earlier, while his wife's health was rapidly deteriorating. He also spoke of his enthusiasm for visiting prostitutes.

Jaws duly dropped and the book was not only awarded the Hawthornden Prize and the 2008 National Book Critics Circle Award in the US, but also received considerable praise from the critics. One reviewer called it a "portrait of the artist as a monster".

In the earlier introduction to his biography of the English explorer Sir Francis Younghusband, *Younghusband: The Last Great Imperial Adventurer*, French spelled out his approach to biography, which was confirmed by his attitude to Naipaul: "I came to realise the complexity of each person: a character who is abominable one year might be oddly endearing the next. I learned the need for scrupulous research and selection, as well as intuition, empathy and compassion. I saw the difficulty of trying to judge another era or condemn an individual's motivation, preferring to expose the subject with ruthless clarity to the calm eye of the reader."

Patrick Rollo Basil French was born in Aldershot in 1966, the eldest of four. His father, Major Maurice Aloysius French MBE of the Royal Fusiliers, was based there at the time. His mother was Lavinia (née Burke). Major French had been previously married during a posting to Kenya and his two children from that marriage lived with his new family. In 1969, they moved to Warminster, where French attended St George's Catholic Primary School. French recalled in a lengthy article in Granta magazine in 2013 that his "antipathy to military culture started early and it wasn't helped by living in a garrison town". Every morning, when he came downstairs, he would come face to face with a portrait of his great uncle, Lieutenant Maurice Dease, who was the first posthumous recipient of the Victoria Cross in the First World War, for his actions at the Battle of Mons. He could also regularly hear the shouts of recruits doing bayonet practice. "I have steered away from writing about myself or my country," he said. "I often feel more at ease in places or cultures that are not my own."



MAYA JASANOFF

French, who spent much of his time in South Asia, was one of the founding members of Free Tibet and was later tracked by Chinese security officials

### French's curiosity about Tibet was encouraged by a visit by the Dalai Lama

At the age of eight, he was sent to All Hallows Prep School in Somerset and later to Ampleforth, the Catholic boarding school in North Yorkshire. Dominic, his elder half-brother, who had a colourful but troubled existence, had been a pupil at Ampleforth until he was expelled for allegedly shooting a monk in the leg. He later became a drug smuggler and after his release from prison in Britain he left for Kenya, where he married a woman from the Kamba tribe and settled down in a village hut (without running water or electricity) until his death in 2018. Perhaps as a reaction to his wayward sibling, French excelled at Ampleforth and became head of house.

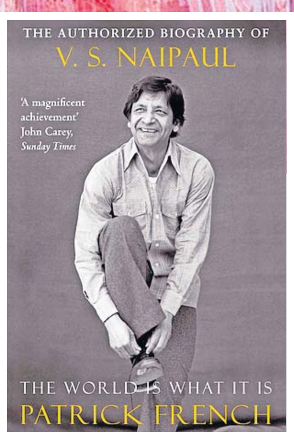
In 1983, French's curiosity about Tibet was encouraged by a visit to Ampleforth by the Dalai Lama, who had expressed an interest in seeing a Christian monastery in operation. French recalled having an urge to be noticed by him: "He wore platform flip-flops and a maroon robe, vivid against the sombre black habits of the receiving monks. Joy poured from him; there was no trace of piety, the great Christian virtue."

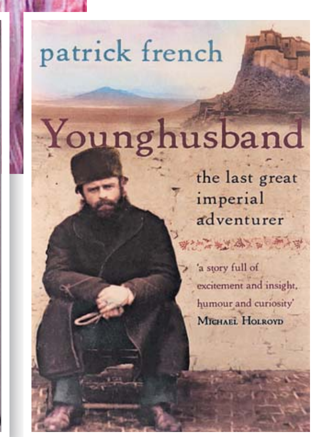
Two years later, while travelling in China near the Tibetan border, French was forced to spend several days in a monastery recovering from food poisoning, where he first read about Younghusband and his 1904 expedition to Tibet.

This kindled a lifelong interest in Tibet, which was reinforced by annual travels to northern India, even during his four years at Edinburgh University. Always prone to staginess, French was noticeable on campus for sporting a pink kikoy beach wrap around his neck and wearing a pakol (an Afghan woolly hat). He graduated with a degree in English in 1989, with his thesis concerning the use of colour imagery in *The Great Gatsby*.

In 1992, French stood for the Westbury parliamentary seat in Wiltshire as the Green Party candidate, gaining 880 votes. In the same year, he married Abigail Ashton-Johnson and they travelled to northern India together to research Younghusband's first expedition through the Rohtang Pass into Tibet. As an example of French's desire to immerse himself into the experience of his biographical subject, he spent a fortnight trekking around Manali and through the Rohtang Pass wearing similar apparel to Younghusband, even copying his diet of tinned herring and dried apricots.

French's theatricality carried over to the launch of the book in London in 1994. After briefly appearing at the start of proceedings, he hurried behind the stage and had his shoulder-length hair cut off before reappearing in a ginger beard and explorer's clothes to launch the book from a clay pigeon trap over the startled heads of the attendees. "That sense of humour was typical of Patrick," commented the author William Dalrymple, his friend since they both attended Ampleforth as teenagers. "He always had an ability to see the absurd and comic everywhere."




Once the dust of the launch settled, *Younghusband* was well received, winning the Somerset Maugham Award and the Royal Society of Literature Heinemann Prize.

When asked for three tips for budding young authors, French said: "Believe in your talent, if you have it; ignore the peripheral and get a good editor." In 1996 he helped one such author, Arundhati Roy, by reading the manuscript of *The God of Small Things*. It so impressed him that he sent it to David Godwin, the literary agent. He immediately flew to India and commissioned Roy, who went on to win the Booker Prize in 1997.

In the same year, French published *Liberty or Death*, concerning the years immediately before Indian independence, which won the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year award in 1998.

During the Nineties, French continued his interest in Tibet, becoming a founding member of the Free Tibet campaign. He visited the region and scrupulously wrote his notes in code, as he soon became aware that Chinese security officials were following him and searching his possessions.

His family, which now consisted of his wife and three children, relocated to Kochi in southern India for seven months in 2002, where he continued to work on *Tibet, Tibet: A Personal History of a Lost Land*, which was published the following year.

French was then offered the OBE but he declined to accept it on the grounds that "it is ridiculous that honours given in the 21st century would have the word 'empire' in them."

When on an assignment to India in 2005, he met Meru Gokhale, former editor-in-chief of Penguin Random House. They married in 2007, after French divorced his first wife.

### He declined the OBE on the grounds that it still used the word 'empire'

After the publication of his biography of Naipaul, he wrote *India: A Portrait* in 2011, which is a look at the country through profiles of a wide variety of citizens. For most of the remainder of his life, he was based in New Delhi. Having completed his PhD in South Asian history at Edinburgh University in 2015 he was appointed as the inaugural dean of the arts and sciences at Ahmedabad University in 2017.

French and Gokhale had a baby boy, Krishna, in early 2019, only months before he discovered he was suffering from multiple myeloma, a cancer of the bone marrow. They survive him along with the children from his first marriage: Tenzin has a leisure clothing brand; Abraham is a video producer and Iris is a student at Central St Martins college in London.

French had a reputation as a mischief-maker. While an undergraduate in Edinburgh, he wrote to the registrar at Eton College to seek advice about putting his non-existent son Colin down for a place. The earnest and lengthy exchange of correspondence that followed amused him greatly.

On another occasion he rang up the Earl of Sutherland in the early hours and asked the housemaid to put him through because he had an important question to ask him. When the irritated earl came on the line, French asked in a broad Glaswegian accent if he could comment about the quality of the Strathnaver pie of West Sutherland (as Strathnaver was one of the earl's titles), and he thought it was inferior to the mass-produced Fray Bentos pie.

Fellow biographers, meanwhile, who made the mistake of appealing in print for help with their research would sometimes receive misleading letters from him purporting to be from friends and acquaintances of the subject, or in one elaborate case from a doctor who had performed a botched operation on the subject's septum, leaving him with a nasal rattle.

**Patrick French, historian and writer, was born on May 28, 1966. He died of cancer on March 16, 2023, aged 56**

Register

# Greta Andersen

## Record-breaking Danish swimmer who won gold at the 1948 London Games and made it across the Channel six times

Crowds gathered between Dover Harbour and St Margaret's Bay, on the Kent coast, on August 23, 1958 as Greta Andersen swam ashore escorted by an armada of small boats. A helicopter hovered above and rock'n'roll music blared from a gramophone to encourage her on the final sprint. Unlike a swim she undertook three years later between Hawaiian islands, here in the Channel she was spared encounters with sharks, porpoises and whales.

Thirty swimmers, smothered in grease, had started from Cap Gris-Nez, west of Calais, where the race's sponsor, the holiday camp entrepreneur Billy Butlin, fired the starting gun at 2.05am. Despite the calm sea and light mist, 19 had soon dropped out. The going was tough, especially towards the finish, when Andersen encountered powerful currents. "I felt like giving up," she recalled. "But my husband [who was on the support boat] chalked on a blackboard to me to read, 'Hi Greta, you can't give up. All the other girls are still in there swimming'."

Andersen, who had also won the previous year's cross-Channel race, completed the crossing from France in a record 10 hours 59 minutes, beating by 1 hour 42 minutes the previous best by Brenda Fisher (obituary, September 19, 2022) from Grimsby. She was so fast that at one point the accompanying control ship messaged: "Everyone on board is astounded. We have had to put on steam to keep up with her."

A decade earlier Andersen had been the great Danish hope in the swimming at the Olympic Games in London. In July 1948 she won her country's 400m championship in 5 minutes 10.4 seconds, thought to be the best time in the world that year. "I think I will be able to do still better in London," she declared.

She did indeed do well in London, beating the American favourite Ann Curtis in a shock result to win gold in the 100m freestyle in the Empire Pool at Wembley. Yet during the third heat of the preliminaries for the 400m she collapsed in the water and sank to the bottom of the pool. Two competitors on the sidelines dived in to save her from drowning until help arrived. She was taken by stretcher to the dressing room, still unconscious, and was soon revived. The incident was captured by TV cameras, which were covering the Olympics for the first time.

It was written off in the English-language press as stomach pains, cramp or exhaustion but in fact, the cause of her collapse had been period pains. "The nerve-racking events of the last few days had accelerated the monthly malaise," she recalled. "It stole all my strength and gave me both a headache and a stomach ache."

It did not prevent Andersen returning to the water and a few days later she won silver in the 4x100m freestyle relay. She then returned with the rest of the Danish swimming team to Copenhagen and a large public reception.

The following year she set a world record of 58.2 seconds for the 100-yard crawl. At the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki she sought medical help to postpone

### She swam across Hawaii in a cage designed to prevent shark attacks

her period. However, her results were disappointing, with an eighth place in the 400m crawl and a fourth place with the relay team. As she wrote in her autobiography, the injections had "the desired effect, but at the same time they paralysed my arms and legs".

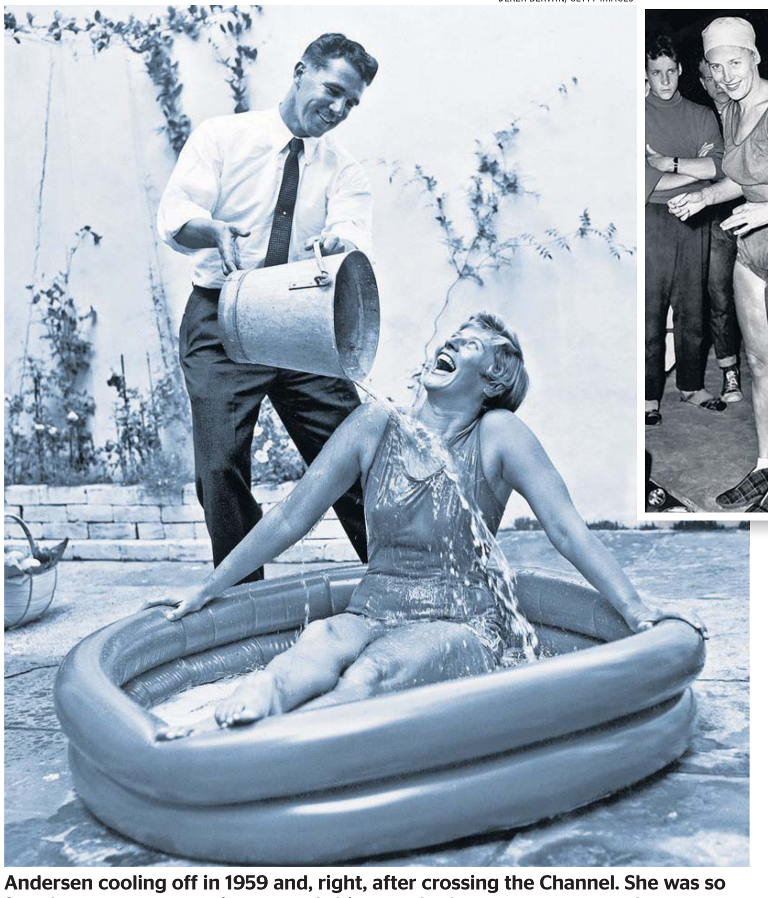
Greta Andersen was born in Copenhagen in 1927, the daughter of Mourits Andersen, a gymnast known as Peter, and his wife Charlotte (née Nielsen). As a child she enjoyed gymnastics and by the age of 16 she was a member of the Triton swimming club, where she was coached by Else Jacobsen, a former Danish swimming champion.

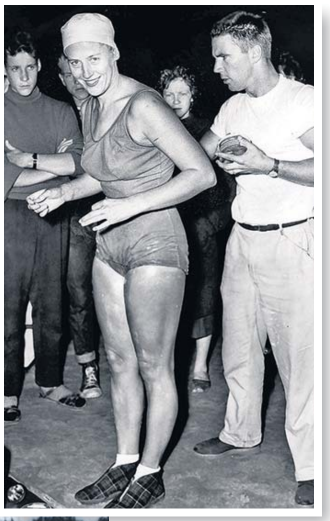
During the wartime occupation of Denmark her parents, fearing she might be raped by Nazi soldiers, cut her hair short and dressed her as a boy. She took a degree in physical education, taught gymnastics and in 1946 had some success with the Danish swimming team at the European Championships in Monte Carlo. In 1950 she studied for a short time in San Francisco and two years later married Helge Jeppesen, a Danish engineer.

After her two appearances at the Olympics, Andersen's swimming days were far from over. Yet she needed to earn a living and American sponsorship appeared the most lucrative route. Emigrating to the US in 1953, she settled in Long Beach, California, where the climate was good for her joints and limbs. She dropped the short swims, reinvented herself as a long-distance swimmer and in 1956 won the first of seven Around Atlantic City Marathon swims. She then won the 50-mile Lake Michigan race from Chicago to Kenosha, Wisconsin, finishing ten miles ahead of her nearest competitor to claim $25,000 in prize money.

Her first attempt at the cross-Channel race was in 1956. The following year she was the first of only two swimmers to finish, completing the crossing in 13 hours and 53 minutes.

DEREK BERWIN/GETTY IMAGES





Andersen cooling off in 1959 and, right, after crossing the Channel. She was so fast that an accompanying control ship once had to put on steam to keep up

Between then and 1965 she swam the Channel six times, a record for a woman, and in September 1964 she tried to swim back to France, spending 23 hours in choppy waters before admitting defeat.

Meanwhile, her first marriage had been dissolved and in 1957 she married John Sonnichsen, an American football coach at San Pedro High School, California, who was also her trainer. Together they opened the Greta Andersen Swim School in Los Alamitos, California, where she taught children to be safe and confident swimmers.

In 1961 she twice failed to swim the 27 miles across the Molokai (or Ka'iwi) Channel, between the Hawaiian islands of Molokai and Oahu. On her first attempt, in January, she outdistanced the sharks; in April she swam part of the crossing in a specially designed cage, but that attracted a school of porpoises that repeatedly bumped into the bars.

Andersen's second marriage was dissolved and in the mid-1960s she married Andre Veress, a Hungarian-born doctor and former refugee, who survives her; she had no children. They lived in a water-front home in Huntington Harbour, California, where she enjoyed direct access to the sea. She told the Los Angeles Times in 1972: "When I get into the water it's a different world."

**Greta Andersen, swimmer, was born on May 1, 1927. She died on February 6, 2023, aged 95**

# Merrick Baker-Bates

## Diplomat in Los Angeles who deftly handled a visiting Margaret Thatcher and introduced Elizabeth Taylor to her sixth husband

Merrick Baker-Bates was on his way to Utah with Margaret Thatcher when she fell asleep in the back of the limousine, with her head on his shoulder.

As Britain's consul-general in Los Angeles, Baker-Bates oversaw a "parish" that covered not only Hollywood and southern California but other areas the Washington embassy did not reach, including Las Vegas and Hawaii.

The state of Utah was not one of the big attractions but it was also within his bailiwick and when in 1996 Thatcher was offered $150,000 to speak there, it fell to him to make the travel arrangements and to accompany her.

It was also his task to brief the former prime minister on the news of the day. Armed with reams of print-outs, Baker-Bates updated her on what was happening in the Bosnian war, but she soon nodded off. When a bend in the road caused the driver to slam on the brakes, Thatcher awoke with a jolt. "As I was saying to Helmut Schmidt ..." she said, without batting an eyelid.

When they arrived at the venue, the Mormon-run Brigham Young University, Thatcher's oration about "the end of the Evil Empire, Ron [Reagan] and I, all that sort of stuff" went down a storm with the 23,000-strong audience. Less satisfying was the week-long stay Baker-Bates arranged for her and husband, Denis, at the mountain home of Jon Huntsman Sr, the billionaire and former White House aide, in the ski resort of Park City. Huntsman was a prominent Mormon, which meant there was no alcohol in the house.



Right, with Peter Ustinov in 1992

They survived three days before Denis issued a "get us out of here" plea, under the pretence that the altitude was bad for his heart. Baker-Bates transferred them to "a little hotel where they could get a drink".

Finding an ex-prime minister somewhere she could enjoy a "snortorino", as her husband called it, was all part of the diplomatic round and Baker-Bates enjoyed to the hilt his time in LA, his final posting after 30 years in the service. California enjoyed his unstuffy approach to representing his government, too; what was intended to be a two-year posting stretched to five before he retired in 1997.

At the consul-general's LA mansion, built in the 1920s by Wallace Neff in the Californian-Spanish style, he hosted British politicians and members of the royal family. He also hosted Monty Python's 25th anniversary party at the residence, decorating the gardens with cans of Spam for the occasion, and inaugurated the tea party for British nominees at the Academy Awards, now a highly prized event of Oscars week. He hung out with Elton John and Tom Jones and became friends with Pierce Brosnan and Patrick Stewart.

Only the chaps back in London disturbed this sybaritic life. "People kept ringing from the Foreign Office," he harrumphed, and at times he gave them short shrift. When Los Angeles suffered a 6.7-force earthquake in 1994, Whitehall woke him in the middle of the night wanting to know if any British people had been injured. "The city is 450 square miles. The roads are in chaos, the telephone system is down," he replied. "What am I supposed to do — get on my bicycle?"

On retirement he returned to Britain and settled in Northamptonshire with Chrystal (née Goodacre), his wife of 60 years whom he met as a student at Oxford. She survives him, along with their son, Jonathan, and daughter, Harriet.

Merrick Stuart Baker-Bates was born in Crosby, then in Lancashire, in 1939, six weeks before the start of the Second World War. The second of five children to Norah (née Stuart) and Eric Baker-Bates, he grew up in a prosperous, Victorian-style household staffed by a nanny, two maids and a chauffeur.

His parents separated when he was ten and he was sent to live with a friend of his father's whom he called "Auntie Kath". Educated at a prep school in the Lake District and Shrewsbury, he read history at Hertford College, Oxford. On graduating he spent a year at the College of Europe in Bruges, followed by a spell in Brussels as a journalist before he passed the civil service exam and joined the Foreign Office.

Posted to Tokyo, he swiftly rose to become private secretary to the ambassador before he was recalled to London. Promotion came in 1973 as a first secretary in Washington, where his tasks included supervising a British press contingent at a White House dinner in 1975 at which Harold Wilson was speaking. After the speeches, he was meant to lead his charges out of the room but accidentally herded them into the line of the great and good being presented to President Ford and the British prime minister. "What are you lads doing here?" Wilson demanded after they had shaken hands with the president. "I'm terribly sorry, prime minister, we got into the wrong queue," a sheepish first secretary told him.

His faux pas was forgotten when he persuaded Elizabeth Taylor to attend an official dinner presided over by Queen Elizabeth at the British embassy to mark the bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence. When Taylor arrived Baker-Bates introduced her to John Warner, a Republican politician. Four months later Warner became Taylor's sixth husband.

After a second tour of duty in Tokyo Baker-Bates was lured away to the private sector for several years, but in 1986 he returned to government service. He had a spell as deputy high commissioner to Malaysia and was sworn in as the de facto governor of British Antarctica.

Looking back on his years of diplomacy, he reflected: "We gave away an empire without too much violence and trouble and I think the FO I served had a lot of achievements, really."

**Merrick Baker-Bates CMG, diplomat, was born on July 22, 1939. He died of a bacterial infection on February 24, 2023, aged 83**

## Thanksgiving Service Field Marshal Lord Inge KG

The King was represented by the Duke of Kent, the Queen by General Sir Patrick Sanders, the Princess Royal by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Stirrup KG, Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy by the Duke of Abercorn KG, and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester by Viscount Brookeborough KG, at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Field Marshal Lord Inge KG, held on Thursday March 23, 2023 at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey.

Admiral Sir Tony Radakin, Chief of Defence Staff, attended.

The Right Rev Anthony Ball, canon in residence, officiated, gave the bidding and pronounced the blessing. The Rev Ralph Godsall, priest vicar, Westminster Abbey, led the prayers, assisted by Brigadier David Colthup and the Rev Tom Ringland, vicar of Penhill Benefice.

General Lord Houghton of Richmond read the first lesson: Ephesians 6, verses 10-18 and Mr Max Barnes Yallowley, grandson, read the second lesson: 1 Corinthians 13, verses 1-13.

Mr Toby Barnes Yallowley and Mr Charlie Barnes Yallowley, grandsons, read *If* by Rudyard Kipling.

The Right Rev Dr John Inge, Bishop of Worcester and Lord High Almoner, gave the address.

General Lord Dannatt paid tribute.

Field Marshal Lord Inge's orders and decorations were brought forward and placed on the High Altar by former aides-de-camp Lieutenant Colonel David O'Kelly, Lieutenant Colonel Nick Watt, Major Marcus Hinde, Captain Clive Richards and Captain Huw Rothwell.



**Field Marshal Lord Inge KG was chief of the defence staff**

During the service St Margaret's Consort, conducted by Mr Greg Morris, sang and the Band of The Yorkshire Regiment, led by Colour Sergeant Keith Marsden, performed Slow March (Maria Theresa) arranged by Christopher Dawe of the Green Howards. Musician Adam Finch played the bugle and Mr Richard Pearce played the organ.

The Lord Mayor of Westminster, the Lady Usher of the Black Rod, the Norwegian Ambassador to the Court of St James's and the Ambassador of Jordan attended.

Among others present were: Mr and Mrs Jonnie Barnes Yallowley (son-in-law and daughter), Miss Verity Inge (daughter) with other members of the family.

Also present were: the Earl and Countess of Airlie, Earl Attlee, Earl and Countess Peel, Viscountess Brookeborough, Lord and Lady Astor of Hever, Lord and Lady Butler of Brockwell, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Craig, Lord Crathorne, Lady Dannatt, Baroness Eccles of Moulton, Baroness Garden of Frognal, Lord Glenarthur, Field Marshal Lord Guthrie, Lady Houghton of Richmond, Lord Morris of Aberavon KG, General Lord Richards of Herstmonceux, and Lady Richards, Lady Stirrup, Field Marshal Lord Walker of Aldringham, and Lady Walker, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Benjamin Bathurst, Lieutenant General Sir Ben Bathurst, General Sir Adrian and Lady Bradshaw, Lady Bagnall, Lady Brittan of Spennithorne, Lieutenant General Sir Roderick and Lady Cordy-Simpson, Lieutenant General Sir Peter and Lady Duffell, Dame Glynne Evans, General Sir Timothy Granville-Chapman, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael and Lady Graydon, Sir Claude Hankes, General Sir Mike and Lady Jackson, Lady Kenny, Sir John Major KG CH, Lieutenant General Sir Hew and Lady Pike, Lieutenant General Sir William Rollo, Admiral Sir Jock and Lady Slater, Lord Soames, Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope, Major General Sir John and Lady Waters, Major General Sir Evelyn and Lady Webb-Carter, Lieutenant General Sir Barnabas and Lady White-Spunner, Lieutenant General Sir Michael and Lady Willcocks.

Mr Matthew Arnoldi, Brigadier Norman Allen, Ms Philippa Barker, Mr Will Barnes Yallowley, Mr Edward Barnes Yallowley, Ms Antonia Barnes Yallowley, Ms Lilian Barton Sartorius, Ms Janie Binney, Ms Lucy Booth, Ms Polly Booth, Mr Christopher Boyle, Mr Joss Boyle, Brigadier Michael Bray, Ms Alixe Buckerfield de la Roche, Major General David Burden, Mr Robin Carr, Major General Michael Charlton-Weedy, Mr Anthony Collinson, Mrs David Colthup, Ms Juliet Cooper, Major J.G. H Corrigan, Mr Richard Cotton, Mr Timoor Daghistani, Major General Arthur Denaro, Mr Denis Doble, Ms Catherine Donovan, Ms Venetia Dunlop, Mr Peter Dwerryhouse, Ms Sarah Dyckhoff, Brigadier James Ellery, Mr Jonathan Ewbank, Major General and Mrs Andrew Farquhar, Lieutenant General Andrew Figgures, Ms Claire Fuller, Ms Caroline Gardner, Mr James Gray, Colonel Jeremy Green, Brigadier and Mrs Nigel Hall, Major Nick Hallidie, Ms Alison Handley, Mr Michael Harrison, Mr Nicholas Hill-Norton, Brigadier Andrew Jackson, Brigadier John King, Major General and Mrs Lamont Kirkland, Ms Claire Lewis, Ms Alice Linington, Ms Helen Lorimer, Mr David Maddan, Mr Humphrey Maddan, Mr Ralph Maddan, Mr Francis Maddan, Brigadier Allan Mallinson, Brigadier and Mrs Christopher Marchant Smith, Ms Eve Milne, Brigadier Peter Monteith, Mrs David O'Kelly, Ms Susan O'Sullivan, Brigadier and Mrs John Powell, Mrs Penelope Rankin, Ms Caroline Rucker, Brigadier and Mrs David Santa-Olalla, Mrs Jane Scrope, Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Segrave, Mr Avjinder Singh, Mr Adam Smeeton, Mr George Smeeton, Major General Zac Stenning, Major-General and Mrs Tim Sulivan, Ms Francoise Thom, Brigadier Austin Thorp, Mr Michael Walker, Ms Lucy Wirgman, Mr and Mrs Richard Wolstenholme and representatives of ABF The Soldiers' Charity, Combat Stress together with many more friends, former colleagues and organisations having connection with Lord Inge.

## Court Circular

**Buckingham Palace**
22nd March, 2023
President Hamid Karzai (former President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan) visited The King this morning.

23rd March, 2023
His Excellency Mr Yannis Tsaousis was received in audience by The King today and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Hellenic Republic to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency Mr Koray Ertas was received in audience by The King and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Turkey to the Court of St James's.

Mrs Ertas was also received by His Majesty.

Sir Philip Barton (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs) was present.

The King this afternoon officially opened the new London Headquarters of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development at Five Bank Street, London E14, and was received by Colonel Jane Davis (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London), the President of the Bank (Mrs Odile Renaud-Basso) and Mr Peter Curwen (the Board Director representing the United Kingdom).

His Majesty toured the Bank, escorted by the President, and met Ukrainian and Turkish staff before viewing an art exhibition of paintings from Ukraine and joining a Meeting with the Board of Directors on green transition.

Mrs Derek Cross was later received by The King upon relinquishing her appointment as The late Queen's Diary Secretary.

The King was represented by The Duke of Kent at the Service of Thanksgiving for Field Marshal the Lord Inge KG (formerly Chief of the Defence Staff) which was held at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, today.

The Queen Consort was represented by General Sir Patrick Sanders.

**Kensington Palace**
22nd March, 2023
The Prince of Wales this morning departed from Royal Air Force Northolt for Poland and was received this afternoon upon arrival at Rzeszow-Jasionka International Airport by His Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Poland (Her Excellency Ms Anna Clunes).

His Royal Highness then met British troops at the Airport.

The Prince of Wales later visited a Polish Military Base in Rzeszow.

His Royal Highness afterwards visited British troops providing support to Poland and Ukraine.

The Prince of Wales this evening met Ukrainian refugees living in temporary accommodation in Warsaw.

Mr Jean-Christophe Gray, Mr Lee Thompson and Commander Robert Dixon RN are in attendance.

23rd March, 2023
The Prince of Wales today undertook the following engagements in Poland.

His Royal Highness this morning laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Plac Marszalka Józefa Pilsudskiego, Warsaw.

The Prince of Wales afterwards called upon The President of the Republic of Poland at the President's Chancellery, Warsaw.

His Royal Highness this afternoon met Ukrainian refugees who are settled in the Polish community at Hala Koszyki, Koszykowa 63, Warsaw.

The Prince of Wales subsequently met Ukrainian staff at Hala Koszyki who have been displaced from the British Embassy in Kyiv.

His Royal Highness later arrived at Royal Air Force Northolt from Poland.

Mr Jean-Christophe Gray, Mr Lee Thompson and Commander Robert Dixon RN were in attendance.

**St James's Palace**
23rd March, 2023
The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation, this morning chaired a Trustees' Meeting at 7 More London Riverside, London SE1.

**St James's Palace**
23rd March, 2023
The Princess Royal this morning visited Viridor Waste Management's Dunbar Energy Recovery Facility in Oxwellmains, Dunbar, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of East Lothian (Mr Roderick Urquhart).

Her Royal Highness, President, Scotch Chef's Club, today visited the Monitor Farm Scotland Programme at J. R. B. Wilson and Sons, Cowbog Farm, Morebattle, Kelso, Roxburghshire, and was received by Mr John Jeffery (Deputy Lieutenant of Roxburgh, Ettrick and Lauderdale).

**Kensington Palace**
23rd March, 2023
The Duchess of Gloucester, Royal Colonel, 7th Battalion The Rifles, this evening attended the Rededication Service of Queen Victoria's Rifles' Book of Remembrance at the Parish Church of St. George, Hanover Square, Lodon W1.

## Births, Marriages and Deaths

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**MAY** all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him! For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper. Psalm 72.11-12 (ESV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

### Deaths

**BLAIR** John Woodman (Johnnie). A service of thanksgiving will be held on Friday 21st April at noon in Stenton Parish Church, EH42 1TE.

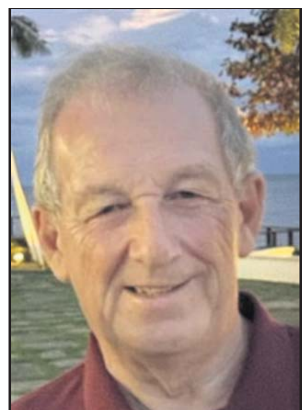
**BROADBENT** Peter Reginald OBE, Captain, Royal Navy, died 17th March 2023, aged 89. Much-loved husband of Sarah and father of Vanessa and Richard. Private family funeral. A date for the service of celebration of his life will be announced later.

**ELSTUB** Jane Meriel Stephenson (née Greenhough) died peacefully in East Sussex on 8th March 2023, aged 89. Jane was the devoted wife to James and mother of Caroline, Charles, Alexandra, Edward, Henry and Henrietta, as well as being a grandmother of 12. Family funeral in the Cotswolds followed by a memorial service in July 2023.

**HOLDSWORTH** Juliet on 18th March 2023, With great sadness, we announce the death of Juliet Holdsworth, previously Sutton-Scott-Tucker. Juliet was our dearly loved wife, mother, grandmother and matriarch, and she will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Private family funeral, with a memorial service to be arranged. Enquiries to Hallett and Perring. Tel: 01803 862417.

**KERR** John MBE died peacefully at home on Wednesday 15th March 2023, aged 83. Devoted husband of Jill, beloved father of Laura, Bruce, Fiona and Alastair and adored grandfather of Cate, Lola, Ness, Flo, Poppy, Billy, Freddie and Bluebell. Private cremation. A service of thanksgiving and celebration of John's life will be held on Wednesday 12th April 2023 at 2.30 pm at Easton Grange, Easton IP13 0EL.

**MALCOLMSON** Colin died peacefully at home on 13th March 2023. A loving husband to Judy, father to James, Louise and Angus and grandfather, he will be greatly missed by all. A thanksgiving service will be held at St Bartholomew's Church, Nettlebed on Friday 21st April at 11.30am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired will be given to Sue Ryder, sent c/o Tomalin & Son, 38 Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1AG.



**SKINNER**
**Rowand Paul passed away on 21st February 2023, aged 73, at his home in Cebu, Philippines with his beloved wife, Emma, by his side. Paul was a deeply loved father to Michael, cherished poppa to Maya and Sebastian and much-loved father-in-law to Bianca. To friends, family and all who knew him, he was the kindest, most generous person, who loved his family profoundly.**

**You are near, even if we do not see you. You are with us, even if you are far away. You are in our hearts and thoughts forever.**

**WOODING** Richard Samuel passed away on 1st March 2023, aged 63 years. Latterly of Mauritius. Funeral service to be held at The Church of St Mary Magdalene, Great Hampden, Buckinghamshire, on Tuesday, 18th April at 12.15pm. Inquiries to Wright Funeral Services, 106 High Street, Great Missenden, HP16 0BE.

### Memorial Services

**DE LA MORINIERE**
**Hervé at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, SW1X 8SH on 19th June 2023 at 11 am. To give us an idea of numbers please email hervememorial@gmail.com if you would like to attend.**

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**LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES**

To place notices for these sections please call 020 7481 4000

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 11.30am three days prior to insertion

## Legal Notices

**In the matter of**
**AMERICAN EXPRESS ADVANCED SERVICES EUROPE LIMITED**
**(Company Number 07817749)**
**Registered office & Principal trading address: Belgrave House, 76 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9AX (in Members' Voluntary Liquidation) ("the Company") andin the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986 and the Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2016**

**Notice is hereby given** that written resolutions were passed by the members of the Company on 14 March 2023 placing the Company into Members' Voluntary Liquidation (solvent liquidation) and appointing Nicholas James Timpson and Howard Smith of Interpath Ltd as Joint Liquidators.

**Notice is also hereby given** that written resolutions were passed by the members of the Company on 14 March 2023 placing the Company into Members` Voluntary Liquidation (solvent liquidation) and appointing Nicholas James Timpson and Howard Smith of Interpath Ltd as Joint Liquidators.

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Rule 14.28 of the Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2016, that the Joint Liquidators of the Company intend to declare a distribution to the creditors of the Company within two months of 1 May 2023.

Creditors who have not yet done so must prove their debts by sending their full names and addresses, particulars of their debts and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the Joint Liquidators at **Interpath Ltd, 5th Floor, 130 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5HF** by no later than 1 May 2023 (the last date for proving).

The intended distribution is a sole distribution and may be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not proved by 1 May 2023. Any creditor who has not proved his debt by that date, or who increases the debt in his proof after that date, will not be entitled to disturb the intended sole distribution. The Joint Liquidators intend that, after paying or providing for a sole distribution in respect of creditors who have proved their debts, all funds remaining in the Joint Liquidators` hands following the sole distribution to creditors shall be distributed to the shareholders of the Company absolutely.

The Company is able to pay all its known liabilities in full.

For further details contact Precious Odiase on +44 (0) 20 3989 2848 or at precious.odiase@interpathadvisory.com

Dated: 15 March 2023
**Nicholas James Timpson,** *Joint Liquidator*

**In the matter of**
**ASSURANT LIFE LIMITED**
**(Company Number 03264844)**
**(Previously Bankers Life Assurance Company Limited (until 14 Nov 2007) Blaic Limited (until 29 Apr 1998) 3062ND Single Member Shelf Trading Company Limited (until 7 May 1997)**
**Registered office and Principal trading address: Emerald Buildings, Westmere Drive, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 6UN (in Members' Voluntary Liquidation) ("the Company") and in the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986 and the Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2016**

**Notice is hereby given** that written resolutions were passed by the members of the Company on 13 March 2023 placing the Company into Members' Voluntary Liquidation (solvent liquidation) and appointing Nicholas James Timpson and David John Pike of Interpath Ltd as Joint Liquidators.

**Notice is also hereby given**, pursuant to Rule 14.28 of the Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2016, that the Joint Liquidators of the Company intend to declare a distribution to the creditors of the Company within two months of 2 May 2023.

Creditors who have not yet done so must prove their debts by sending their full names and addresses, particulars of their debts and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the Joint Liquidators at **Interpath Ltd, 5th Floor, 130 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5HF** by no later than 2 May 2023 (the last date for proving).

The intended distribution is a sole distribution and may be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not proved by 2 May 2023. Any creditor who has not proved his debt by that date, or who increases the debt in his proof after that date, will not be entitled to disturb the intended sole distribution. The Joint Liquidators intend that, after paying or providing for a sole distribution in respect of creditors who have proved their debts, all funds remaining in the Joint Liquidators` hands following the sole distribution to creditors shall be distributed to the shareholders of the Company absolutely.

The Company is able to pay all its known liabilities in full.

For further details contact Kelsey Berchie on +44 (0)20 3989 2787 or at kelsey.berchie@interpathadvisory.com

Dated: 17 March 2023
**Nicholas James Timpson**, *Joint Liquidator*

TILAK RAJ DHIMAN
LATE OF WOLVERHAMPTON, WEST MIDLANDS, DIED THERE ON 13 MAY 2020

MARY ROSS
LATE OF PETERLEE, COUNTY DURHAM DIED THERE ON 24 MARCH 2022

The kin of the above named are requested to apply to BVD, PO Box 2119, Croydon CR90 9QU, United Kingdom DX: 325801 Croydon 51 or at www.gov.uk/bonavacantia, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

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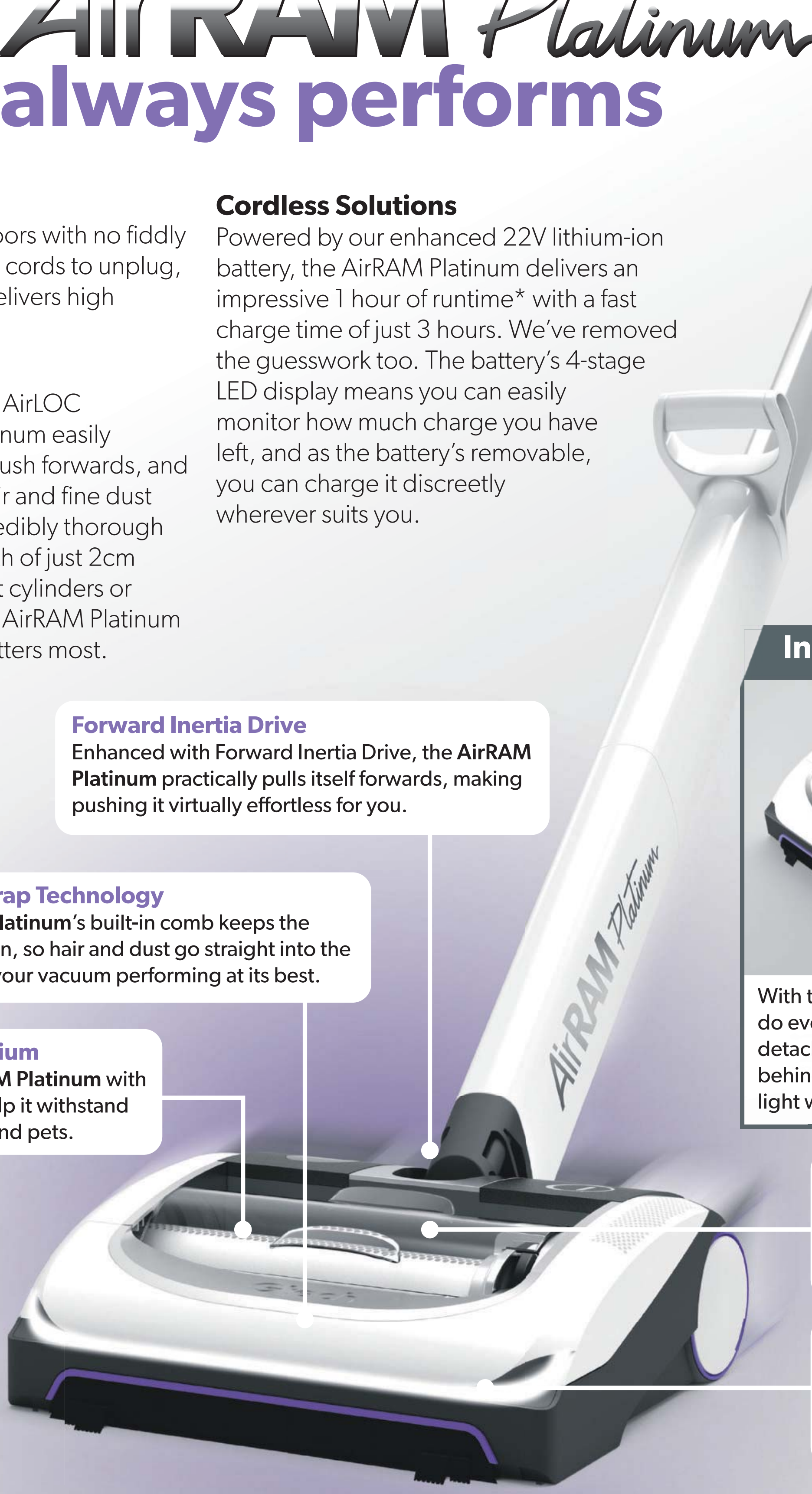
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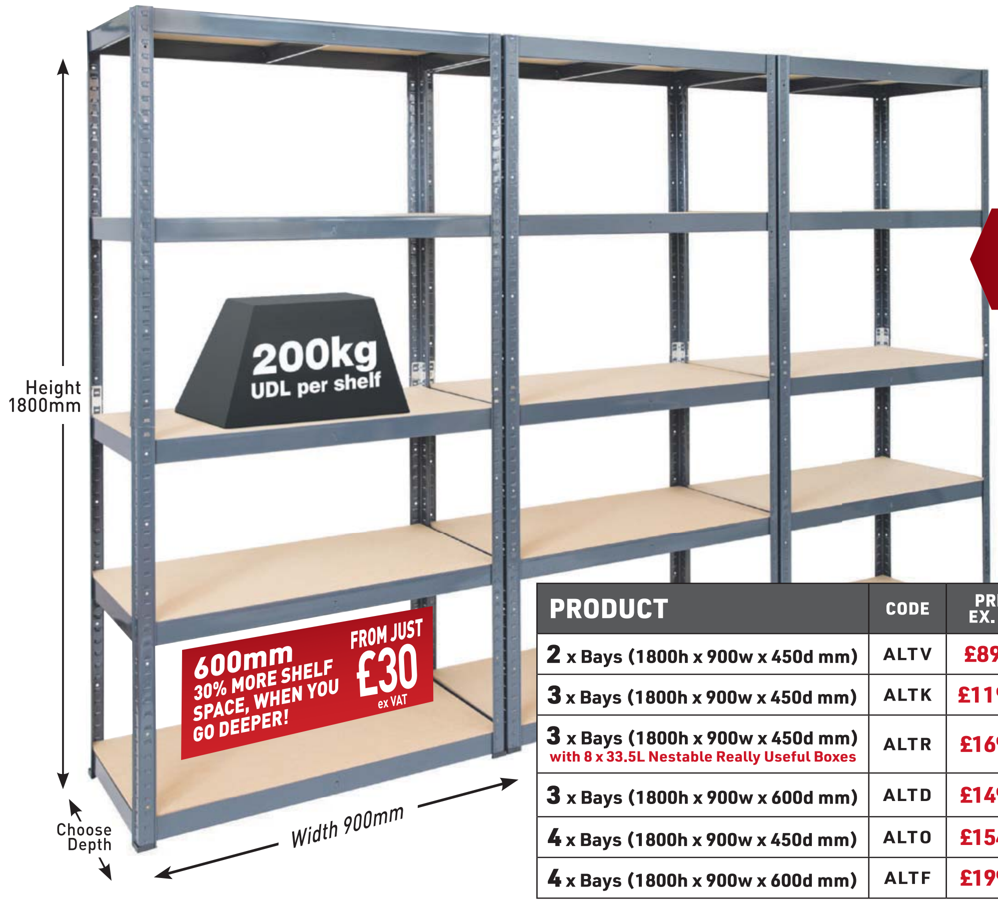
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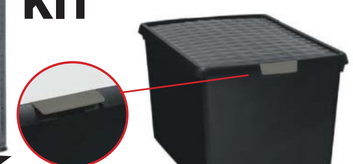
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*Figures source - JLL report

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**AUGUST 2023**

Wed 23 **Embark the 5★ luxurious *Riviera* and depart Portsmouth**

Fri 25 **Newcastle, England**
★Recommended Excursion×: Hadrian's Wall and Roman Fort
Venture into the rolling hills that once defined the Roman Empire's frontier border in England. Visit Heddon on the Wall to take in the longest and most-intact stretch of this defensive barrier and explore Cheshire Fort

Sat 26 **Dundee, Scotland**

Sun 27 **Lerwick, Shetland Islands** (arrive late am)
★Recommended Excursion×: Shetland Ponies & Scalloway Castle
Enjoy a panoramic drive through Lerwick as you see its sights and learn about its colorful early days. Take in the ruins of Scalloway Castle, from which a 17th-century despot once terrorized the region. Enjoy a fun encounter with inquisitive and furry Shetland ponies, bred by a dedicated enthusiast

Mon 28 **Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland**
★Recommended Excursion×: Scenic Lewis & the Standing Stones
Experience the diverse, ruggedly unspoiled Lewis island landscape. Cross the isle by panoramic coach, viewing innumerable tiny lochs and the picturesque fishing village of Garynahine. Walk among the Standing Stones of Callanish, a dramatic coastal megalithic site on par with Stonehenge in its significance – and mystery




Tue 29 **Killybegs, Ireland**

Wed 30 **Belfast, Northern Ireland**

Thu 31 **Cork (from Cobh), Ireland** (arrive late am)
★Recommended Excursion×: Panoramic Cork & Blarney Castle
Visit historic Blarney Castle, where if patient and flexible enough, you'll kiss its famous Stone. Sip an Irish coffee and browse fine crystal, clothing, linen and handicrafts at Blarney Woolen Mill. Settle back for a panoramic journey that brings you past Cork's top landmarks and crisscrosses its famous river bridges




**SEPTEMBER 2023**

Fri 1 **Portland, England** (arrive late am)
★Recommended Excursion×: Stonehenge and Cerne Abbas
Travel into Wiltshire's rural fields to a sight that mystifies – and thrills – all who visit it. Follow your guide around Stonehenge and be amazed by the scale of these standing stones. Visit the site of a second barely-explained earthwork, this one an enormous naked male figure outlined in carved chalk on a hillside in Dorset

Sat 2 **Arrive in Portsmouth**

Date not mentioned is spent relaxing at sea

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## Today Showery rain across Scotland and Ireland, thundery showers elsewhere. Max 14C (57F), min 0C (32F)

### Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

| | Temp C midday yesterday | | Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday | Sun hr* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 11 | PC | 0.0 | 7.6 |
| Aberporth | 12 | C | 2.2 | 4.3 |
| Anglesey | 11 | PC | 8.0 | 4.0 |
| Aviemore | 9 | S | 4.6 | 2.9 |
| Barnstaple | 14 | R | 3.8 | ** |
| Bedford | 13 | R | 6.2 | ** |
| Belfast | 11 | C | 5.4 | 3.3 |
| Birmingham | 12 | R | 4.0 | ** |
| Bournemouth | 13 | C | 3.2 | 1.7 |
| Bridlington | 13 | PC | 4.2 | ** |
| Bristol | 13 | C | 7.6 | 3.9 |
| Camborne | 10 | R | 10.0 | 1.6 |
| Cardiff | 13 | C | 1.8 | 2.5 |
| Edinburgh | 12 | R | 0.2 | 6.4 |
| Eskdalemuir | 9 | R | 19.2 | 0.1 |
| Glasgow | 10 | C | 11.2 | 6.3 |
| Hereford | 15 | C | 3.2 | ** |
| Herstmonceux | 14 | C | 10.8 | 0.0 |
| Ipswich | 14 | C | 0.0 | ** |
| Isle of Man | 11 | PC | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| Isle of Wight | 12 | M | 7.6 | ** |
| Jersey | 12 | C | 4.0 | 0.1 |
| Keswick | 10 | R | 20.8 | ** |
| Kinloss | 11 | S | 3.8 | 4.2 |
| Leeds | 10 | D | 2.6 | ** |
| Lerwick | 8 | C | 9.0 | 1.1 |
| Leuchars | 11 | PC | 0.4 | 7.8 |
| Lincoln | 12 | C | 1.4 | ** |
| Liverpool | 9 | R | 4.2 | ** |
| London | 14 | C | 1.6 | 1.4 |
| Lyneham | 12 | C | 12.6 | 2.0 |
| Manchester | 11 | PC | 3.8 | 7.3 |
| Margate | 12 | PC | 1.0 | 0.1 |
| Milford Haven | 13 | C | 1.0 | ** |
| Newcastle | 13 | PC | 5.4 | ** |
| Nottingham | 12 | C | 2.6 | 5.0 |
| Orkney | 6 | R | 3.6 | 1.0 |
| Oxford | 12 | C | 8.2 | ** |
| Plymouth | 11 | R | 8.6 | ** |
| Portland | 11 | C | 3.0 | ** |
| Scilly, St Mary's | 11 | R | 3.2 | ** |
| Shoreham | 12 | R | 3.2 | 0.0 |
| Shrewsbury | 13 | C | 5.4 | 4.9 |
| Snowdonia | 7 | R | 22.2 | ** |
| Southend | 14 | R | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| South Uist | 9 | R | 4.6 | ** |
| Stornoway | 9 | C | 8.2 | 2.5 |
| Tiree | 8 | B | 4.2 | 4.2 |
| Whitehaven | 8 | C | 43.2 | 3.0 |
| Wick | 8 | R | 3.4 | ** |
| Yeovilton | 12 | R | 9.6 | 2.8 |

### The world

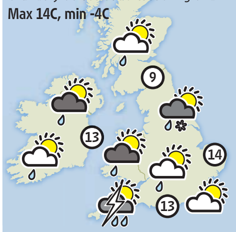
All readings local midday yesterday

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alicante | 22 | S | Madeira | 18 | B |
| Amsterdam | 15 | PC | Madrid | 19 | S |
| Athens | 16 | PC | Malaga | 19 | S |
| Auckland | 19 | S | Mallorca | 18 | PC |
| Bahrain | 23 | PC | Malta | 18 | PC |
| Bangkok | 33 | PC | Melbourne | 20 | B |
| Barbados | 30 | PC | Mexico City | 27 | PC |
| Barcelona | 16 | PC | Miami | 27 | B |
| Beijing | 12 | S | Milan | 17 | S |
| Beirut | 20 | B | Mombasa | 31 | B |
| Belgrade | 19 | S | Montreal | -1 | PC |
| Berlin | 14 | S | Moscow | 10 | PC |
| Bermuda | 20 | PC | Mumbai | 30 | S |
| Bordeaux | 19 | S | Munich | 18 | S |
| Brussels | 14 | PC | Nairobi | 25 | B |
| Bucharest | 15 | S | Naples | 18 | PC |
| Budapest | 19 | S | New Orleans | 25 | S |
| Buenos Aires | 26 | S | New York | 11 | B |
| Cairo | 25 | S | Nice | 16 | PC |
| Calcutta | 30 | S | Nicosia | 19 | PC |
| Canberra | 16 | R | Oslo | 3 | DU |
| Cape Town | 28 | PC | Paris | 15 | B |
| Chicago | 10 | DU | Perth | 30 | S |
| Copenhagen | 12 | B | Prague | 16 | S |
| Corfu | 20 | PC | Reykjavik | 3 | B |
| Delhi | 28 | S | Riga | 10 | R |
| Dubai | 25 | PC | Rio de Janeiro | 31 | PC |
| Dublin | 11 | SH | Riyadh | 24 | S |
| Faro | 18 | S | Rome | 18 | S |
| Florence | 16 | S | San Francisco | 14 | B |
| Frankfurt | 14 | PC | Santiago | 30 | S |
| Geneva | 17 | SH | São Paulo | 28 | PC |
| Gibraltar | 18 | S | Seoul | 19 | S |
| Helsinki | 7 | B | Seychelles | 31 | PC |
| Hong Kong | 27 | PC | Singapore | 32 | B |
| Honolulu | 28 | B | St Petersburg | 9 | B |
| Istanbul | 11 | B | Stockholm | 9 | S |
| Jerusalem | 22 | S | Sydney | 25 | C |
| Johannesburg | 20 | PC | Tel Aviv | 22 | S |
| Kuala Lumpur | 32 | PC | Tenerife | 25 | S |
| Kyiv | ** | ** | Tokyo | 16 | R |
| Lanzarote | 27 | S | Vancouver | 10 | PC |
| Las Palmas | 22 | S | Venice | 17 | S |
| Lima | 25 | S | Vienna | 18 | PC |
| Lisbon | 17 | B | Warsaw | 18 | S |
| Los Angeles | 14 | B | Washington | 18 | PC |
| Luxor | 26 | S | Zurich | 16 | B |

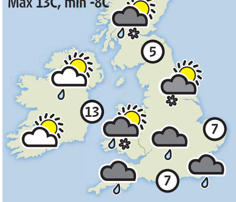
### Five days ahead

A largely dry day on Monday, otherwise unsettled with outbreaks of rain and showers

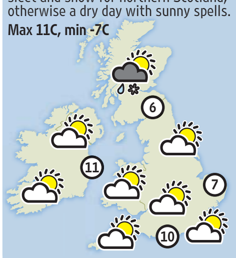
**Tomorrow**
Patchy rain across central areas of the British Isles. Sunny spells with the risk of a shower elsewhere, perhaps thundery across southwest England.
**Max 14C, min -4C**



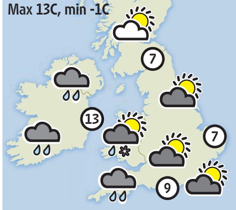

**Sunday**
Sunny periods and scattered wintry showers in the north. Outbreaks of showery rain in southern and eastern areas. Mostly dry with sunny spells in the far west of the British Isles.
**Max 13C, min -8C**



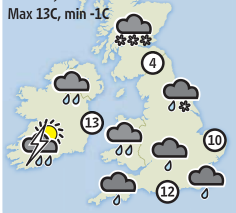

**Monday**
Wintry shower or longer spells of sleet and snow for northern Scotland, otherwise a dry day with sunny spells.
**Max 11C, min -7C**



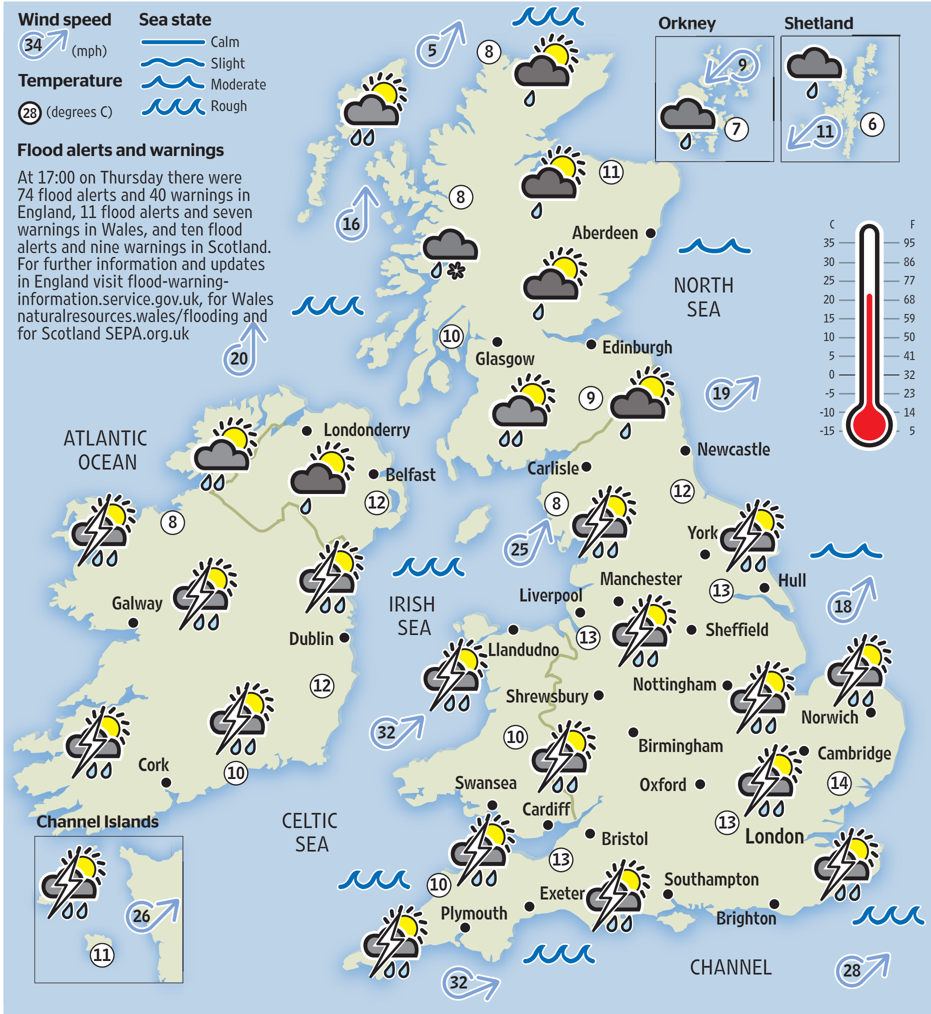

**Tuesday**
A cloudy day across England, Wales, Ireland and southwest Scotland with outbreaks of rain and transient hill snow spreading northeastwards. Hazy sunny spells elsewhere in Scotland.
**Max 13C, min -1C**




**Wednesday**
An unsettled day with outbreaks of rain, falling as snow over the mountains of Scotland. Sunny periods in the far west later with the risk of a thundery shower.
**Max 13C, min -1C**




The Times weather page is provided by Weatherquest




**Flood alerts and warnings**

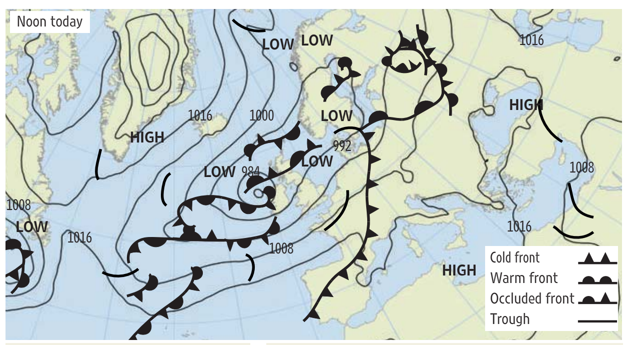
At 17:00 on Thursday there were 74 flood alerts and 40 warnings in England, 11 flood alerts and seven warnings in Wales, and ten flood alerts and nine warnings in Scotland. For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

**General situation:** Showery rain across Ireland and northern and western Scotland. Sunny spells and scattered thundery showers elsewhere.
**Wales, Channel Is, SW Eng, NW Eng, IoM, NE Eng:** Sunny periods with scattered thundery showers through much of the day, becoming cloudy in the south later as rain spreads in. Strong southwesterly winds. Maximum 13C (55F), minimum 3C (37F).
**London, SE Eng, Cen S Eng, E Anglia, Mids, E Eng, Cen N Eng:** Sunny spells with scattered heavy and thundery showers developing during the day. Turning cloudy in the south later with spells of rain pushing in. Fresh to strong southwesterly winds. Maximum 14C (57F), minimum 4C (39F).
**Lake District, SW Scotland, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Glasgow, Argyll, Cen Highland, NW Scotland, N Isles:** A largely cloudy day with outbreaks of showery rain. Gentle to fresh southwesterly winds. Maximum 12C (54F), minimum 0C (32F).
**Republic of Ireland, N Ireland:** Sunny periods with scattered thundery showers this morning. Through the afternoon it will turn mostly cloudy with showers merging into longer periods of rain. Gale force southwesterly winds. Maximum 12C (54F), minimum 3C (37F).
**Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** Sunny periods with the risk of a heavy shower. Gentle to moderate southwesterly winds. Maximum 12C (54F), minimum 2C (36F).

### Tides

Tidal predictions.
Heights in metres

| Today | | Ht | | Ht |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 02:55 | 4.3 | 15:02 | 4.5 |
| Avonmouth | 09:00 | 14.2 | 21:18 | 13.7 |
| Belfast | 00:38 | 3.3 | 12:55 | 3.6 |
| Cardiff | 08:51 | 13.0 | 21:05 | 12.6 |
| Devonport | 07:34 | 5.7 | 19:53 | 5.5 |
| Dover | 00:33 | 7.1 | 12:53 | 6.8 |
| Dublin | 00:49 | 3.9 | 13:04 | 4.2 |
| Falmouth | 06:55 | 5.4 | 19:12 | 5.2 |
| Greenock | 02:04 | 3.4 | 14:21 | 3.7 |
| Harwich | 01:07 | 4.2 | 13:35 | 4.1 |
| Holyhead | 11:59 | 5.9 | --:-- | -- |
| Hull | 08:01 | 7.5 | 20:06 | 8.1 |
| Leith | 04:10 | 5.6 | 16:23 | 5.8 |
| Liverpool | 00:34 | 9.5 | 12:49 | 9.8 |
| London Bridge | 03:23 | 7.5 | 15:48 | 7.2 |
| Lowestoft | 11:15 | 2.4 | 23:18 | 2.7 |
| Milford Haven | 07:56 | 7.4 | 20:12 | 7.1 |
| Morecambe | 00:44 | 9.7 | 12:59 | 10.0 |
| Newhaven | 00:39 | 7.1 | 12:55 | 6.9 |
| Newquay | 06:47 | 7.3 | 19:04 | 7.0 |
| Oban | 07:19 | 4.2 | 19:26 | 3.9 |
| Penzance | 06:19 | 5.8 | 18:36 | 5.5 |
| Portsmouth | 00:57 | 4.8 | 13:06 | 4.7 |
| Shoreham | 00:50 | 6.7 | 13:07 | 6.5 |
| Southampton | 02:35 | 4.7 | 12:35 | 4.5 |
| Swansea | 08:05 | 10.1 | 20:20 | 9.7 |
| Tees | 05:22 | 5.5 | 17:27 | 5.8 |
| Weymouth | 08:43 | 2.3 | 20:58 | 2.2 |




**Synoptic situation**
An occlusion associated with a low pressure system across Scotland will bring thick cloud and outbreaks of rain to central and northern Scotland. Another occlusion will bring outbreaks of heavy and showery rain to Ireland. After a bright start with sunny spells elsewhere it will turn increasing blustery with scattered heavy and thundery showers developing.

**Highs and lows**
24hrs to 5pm yesterday
**Warmest:** St. James's Park, Greater London, 15.4C
**Coldest:** Cairnwell, -1.7C
**Wettest:** Shap, Cumbria, 43.2mm
**Sunniest:** Leuchars, 7.8hrs*

**Sun and moon**
**For Greenwich**
**Sun rises:** 05.53
**Sun sets:** 18.18
**Moon rises:** 07.00
**Moon sets:** 22.15
**First Quarter:** March 29

**Hours of darkness**

| | |
|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 18:59-05:27 |
| Belfast | 19:13-05:43 |
| Birmingham | 18:56-05:28 |
| Cardiff | 19:01-05:34 |
| Exeter | 19:02-05:35 |
| Glasgow | 19:07-05:36 |
| Liverpool | 19:01-05:32 |
| London | 18:49-05:22 |
| Manchester | 18:58-05:29 |
| Newcastle | 18:56-05:26 |
| Norwich | 18:44-05:15 |
| Penzance | 19:10-05:44 |
| Sheffield | 18:55-05:26 |

## Weather Eye
Paul Simons



One of the most unusual museums in Britain must be the Derwent Pencil Museum in Keswick, in the Lake District. It is located close to Seathwaite in the Borrowdale Valley, where graphite was first discovered in the 16th century. Seathwaite is known as the wettest inhabited place in the UK, and is deluged by storms and rain clouds that crash in from the Atlantic, with the resulting rainwater being funnelled through the River Derwent valley in torrents.

According to legend, in March 1564 a violent tempest tore through the area, flooding the river valley and uprooting trees. In the aftermath of the storm, shepherds checking on the condition of their livestock discovered that something strange had been exposed under the mass of upturned tree roots. These lumps of a dark shiny substance looked like black lead but were soft and left dark marks, which the shepherds found made a good way to mark their sheep. The substance, however, had nothing to do with lead and so when the "lead pencil" was invented it was a misnomer.

The material was later identified instead as a mineral, graphite, and the Borrowdale graphite was soon acknowledged as the purest such deposit in the world. It was so soft it could easily be moulded and was heat resistant. This made it an excellent lubricant when used for rigging on ships and for polishing and protecting ironware from rust. During the reign of Elizabeth I, graphite was used to make castings for cannon balls that were rounder and smoother, allowing them to be fired further from English warships.

Being blessed with such qualities the demand for graphite rapidly grew and by the 17th century it had become as valuable as gold. The graphite mines and the surrounding spoil tips, therefore, attracted thieves and armed guards were posted to patrol the sites. As for the invention of the pencil, sticks of graphite were wrapped in string before the first wooden pencil was invented around 1565, using a graphite core in a tube of wood.

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# Sport

# 'We had to tie our boats to sticks in mud'

State-school educated Sara Helin is thriving despite unlikely route to Oxford women's boat, writes **Kit Shepard**



BEN TUFNELL/ROW360

Helin says taking part in state-funded rowing at school "changed my life" and wants more kids to get the same opportunity

**The Boat Race**
**River Thames, Sunday**
**4pm, 77th Women's Race**
**5pm, 168th Men's Race**
**TV: BBC1, from 3.30pm**

Sara Helin did not take the stereotypical route to becoming the Oxford University Women's Boat Club president. With no prior rowing connection or heritage, she unwittingly stumbled across the sport at her state school in year nine.

"I remember seeing one of my older sister's friends race," Helin, 22, recalls. "I'm quite naturally competitive and thought, 'That looks so fun.' It was state-funded, which is pretty insane."

Rowing was initially a casual activity but that self-confessed desire to win soon prevailed. By the end of her childhood, she was a National Schools' Regatta medal-winner, and although she tried new sports once she enrolled at Oxford, her addiction to the water proved too strong.

Her organic venture into rowing goes against the Boat Race's elitist image. Helin's first strokes in a boat were far from luxurious and suggest that world-class apparatus — the sort that she uses at Oxford — is not a prerequisite for participation.

"When I rowed at school, we didn't have a boathouse, we had sticks in the mud and we had to tie our boats on to them after every session so they wouldn't blow off in the wind," she says. "Coming to Oxford and having loads of equipment was shocking and amazing. Helin is aware that she is still "incredibly lucky". She was a pupil at Sir William Borlase's Grammar School in Buckinghamshire, which is not only rated as outstanding by Ofsted but is also a mere ten-minute walk from the River Thames. A specific set of circumstances was required to launch her journey.

There is plenty of work still to do, and initiatives such as The Boat Race Fund are trying to deliver the sport to new socio-economic groups. Helin is keen to play her part and ran a fundraiser with Warrington Youth Rowing last summer to increase inclusivity.

"It is very inaccessible and we need to improve that," she says. "A lot of clubs were inactive most of the time, so Warrington Youth Rowing opened them up, which is very cheap [to do] and meant that state-school kids could learn to row. Rowing changed my life and I'm sure it could change many others'."

That unwavering belief could be useful on Sunday, when Helin's crew commence their daunting task in the 77th Women's Boat Race.

Cambridge have won the past five editions, each by more than two lengths, apart from in 2021, when a shorter course on the River Great Ouse was used because of Covid-19 restrictions. Helin, despite being the second-youngest member, must lead a squad with no previous experience of competing in the Boat Race, let alone winning it.

However, Helin's age is academic, as she has been part of the university's women's boat club, known as OUW, throughout her four-year undergraduate degree in engineering science at St Peter's College. "She's amazing," Laurel Kaye, Oxford's 29-year-old bow, says. "Being at OUW for that long matures you and it certainly gives you experiences that few people have in their undergraduate or even graduate degree."

Helin is also wise enough to use the knowledge around her. Oxford's crew is not completely untested, with four members having competed in the 2022 Reserve Boat Race. Esther Austin, 30, represented New Zealand at the World Rowing Junior Championships four years before Helin took up the sport. "People bring different experiences from different ages and I've led in a way that has used them," Helin says. "It's everyone's team where everyone's contributed."

Will it be enough to topple Cambridge at last? Well, the Light Blue machine does appear a little more vulnerable than in 2022. The likes of Grace Prendergast, Imogen Grant and Ruby Tew — who have 15 world and Olympic medals between them — have moved on, leaving Caoimhe Dempsey as the only survivor from last year. Dempsey, who was also part of the 2021 victory, is the Cambridge women's president and her crew's stroke — the crucial role opposite the cox that sets the rhythm. She too has had to unite a crew light on Boat Race nous.

"You get very comfortable rowing with the same people and you build a lot of trust," the former Irish national champion, 27, says. "All of my 'old' friends are gone and this is a whole new group that I need to get in the same place as they were. I've had to start from scratch and give them that bond and form new friendships."

Paddy Ryan, the Cambridge chief coach since September 2021, is one familiar face for Dempsey to call on. He is eager to evolve training in women's sport, be it through adapting sessions to suit the female body's power application or by understanding how the menstrual cycle influences performance.

"This is historically a men's sport, so all the traditional knowledge about rowing and coaching is very male-dominated," Dempsey says. "Paddy is really good at questioning whether certain styles of coaching or training actually work for women."

This approach and Helin's presidency suggest the Boat Race, while not quite a bastion of equality, is more forward-thinking than its reputation might indicate.



## Hatley reunites with Jones as Australia's scrum coach

**Rugby union** Eddie Jones, Australia's head coach, has brought in Neal Hatley as the Wallabies' scrum coach.

Hatley helped Jones in England's run-up to the 2019 World Cup before rejoining Bath, where he had a spell as head coach and then took on a specialist role mentoring the fowards.

"I'm honoured to join Eddie and the Wallabies in what's a massive year with the World Cup just over five months away," Hatley said. "I know there's plenty of potential within the playing group in Australia."

Jones was sacked by England last December and replaced Dave Rennie in the Wallabies job in January. He appointed the former rugby league player Brett Hodgson as his defence coach last month.

## Bangladesh seal series as Ireland lose by ten wickets

**Cricket** Bangladesh beat Ireland by ten wickets in Sylhet to clinch their three-match one-day international series 2-0. It follows their record 183-run win over the Irish in the opening game and a washout in the second.

Hasan Mahmud took five for 32 as Ireland made 101. Litton Das's 50 and 41 from Tamim Iqbal proved enough.

## Management shake-up at McLaren after early failures

**Formula One** James Key has left McLaren as part of an overhaul of the British team's management structure. Key joined McLaren as executive director from Toro Rosso in 2019, but his departure comes after the team failed to score a point in the first two races of the season.

Key's role will now comprise three specialised technical directors, with David Sanchez joining McLaren from Ferrari. However, Sanchez will not start his new job until next year.

Peter Prodromou and Neil Houldey are promoted, with the three reporting to Andrea Stella, the team principal.

"It's important that we ensure we have a solid foundation as the next phase of our journey," Zak Brown, the McLaren chief executive, said.

## Musselburgh
**Rob Wright**

**1.20** Quaresome
**1.50** Maimie's Magic
**2.25** Ring Of Beara
**3.00** Lock Down Luke
**3.30** Ivetwiggedit
**4.00** White Rhino
**4.30** Touch Of A Dragon

**Going:** good to soft — **Racing TV**

### 1.20 Maiden Hurdle (£4,357: 2m 1f) (8 runners)

1 0433 **ARTISTE D'AINAY** 76 (T) S Crawford (Ire) 5-11-6 **D Jacob**
2 4-6F **DON'T LOOK BACK** 14 L Russell 5-11-6 **D R Fox**
3 P4232 **GARDE DES CHAMPS** 23 K Dalgleish 7-11-6 **B Garritty**
4 1UP-0 **JIMMY'S JET** 151 (W) A M Thomson 7-11-6 **D McMenamin**
5 1 **QUARESOME** 179 D McCain 5-11-6 **B Hughes**
6 50-05 **SHANTOU'S TEMPLE** 36 Miss P Robson 6-11-6 **H Brooke**
7 456U **DONSO STAR** 14 R M Smith 5-10-13 **T Dowson**
8 -0500 **JIMS APPLE** 33 (H,T) J Ewart 7-10-13 **E Austin (5)**

13-8 Artiste D'Ainay, 7-4 Garde Des Champs, 5-2 Quaresome, 25-1 Donso Star, Jimmy's Jet, 33-1 Shantou's Temple, 50-1 Don't Look Back, Jims Apple.

**Rob Wright's choice: Quaresome**, who landed a bumper in Ireland, appeals **Dangers** Garde Des Champs, Artiste D'Ainay

### 1.50 Handicap Hurdle (£15,609: 2m 4f) (11)

1 14516 **CATCHMEIFYOUCAN** 13 (P,D) J Candlish 9-12-0 **W Shanahan (7)**
2 14065 **LATINO FLING** 43 (CD) D McCain 8-11-7 **B Hughes**
3 0-141 **RAVENSCAR** 21 P Kirby 7-11-7 **T Dowson**
4 12111 **LONE STAR** 23 (T,CD) P Kirby 6-11-5 **J Williamson (5)**
5 6-524 **MILLARVILLE** 36 (CD) H Graham & G Rutherford 10-11-4 **E Austin (5)**
6 43363 **NORA THE XPLORER** 13 (B,D) D McCain 8-11-0 **T Gillard**
7 63-3P **BELLA BLUESKY** 10 Ewan Whillans 7-10-8 **Craig Nichol**
8 00511 **MAIMIE'S MAGIC** 52 S Crawford (Ire) 6-10-8 **J J Slevin**
9 -F432 **POPPY ROSE** 38 S Crawford (Ire) 6-10-2 **S Ewing**
10 45225 **SPOT ON SOPH** 23 (T) S England 7-10-2 **L Stones (5)**
11 4U355 **MISTY MANI** 58 P Niven 8-10-2 **P J Kavanagh (5)**

13-8 Lone Star, 5-1 Ravenscar, 11-2 Maimie's Magic, 7-1 Nora The Xplorer, 8-1 Poppy Rose, 12-1 Millarville, 16-1 Latino Fling, 25-1 others.

**Wright choice: Maimie's Magic** can follow up her easy win at Newcastle **Dangers** Spot On Soph, Nora The Xplorer

### 2.25 Handicap Hurdle (4-Y-O: £15,609: 2m 1f) (13)

1 U61F1 **PLANET LEGEND** 20 (P) Dr R Newland 12-0 **C Hammond**
2 21420 **THE CHURCHILL LAD** 27 (H,D) R Menzies 11-11 **N Moscrop**
3 23162 **BRINGBACKMEMORIES** 12 (P,BF,C) J McConnell (Ire) 11-10 **Mr A Harvey (7)**
4 32132 **CIANCIANA** F18 (T) B Ellison 11-10 **P W Wadge (5)**
5 10223 **START IN FRONT** 13 (T) R Menzies 11-4 **A Anderson (5)**
6 41403 **FREDDY ROBINSON** 20 (C) B Ellison 11-3 **D Johnston (7)**
7 4130 **VINTAGE VALLEY** F21 (P) D McCain 11-0 **B Hughes**
8 23004 **HIGHLAND FROLIC** 21 (T,V) M Harris 10-12 **D Jacob**
9 5P1 **SILVER VISION** 142 (C) W Coltherd 10-12 **P J Kavanagh (5)**
10 2532 **RING OF BEARA** 43 (BF) T Easterby 10-11 **J Hamilton**
11 3643 **APOLOGISE** 23 (T) O Greenall & J Guerriero 10-10 **H Brooke**
12 322 **PRETENDING** 21 (BF) L Wadham 10-9 **Sean Quinlan**
13 434 **DUYFKEN** 20 N Alexander 10-7 **B Lynn (3)**

4-1 Planet Legend, 6-1 Bringbackmemories, 13-2 The Churchill Lad, 8-1 Pretending, Cianciana, Ring Of Beara, 10-1 Start In Front, 12-1 Silver Vision.

**Wright choice: Ring Of Beara** looks well treated on his handicap debut **Dangers** Bringbackmemories, Pretending

### 3.00 Handicap Hurdle (£15,609: 3m) (14)

1 -06U1 **CROSSING THE BAR** 39 (T) N Mulholland 6-12-0 **S Ewing**
2 31022 **LOCK DOWN LUKE** 35 (BF) Mrs J Stephen 7-11-10 **Sean Quinlan**
3 14006 **IMPERIAL SACHIN'S** 33 (T) S Corbett 7-11-7 **S Coltherd**
4 13465 **CURLEY FINGER** 35 (P,T) R Menzies 6-11-6 **N Moscrop**
5 -5134 **STARLYTE** 33 (T) L Russell 6-11-5 **P W Wadge (5)**
6 P0620 **KADEX** 18 (P) L Wadham 5-11-5 **D McMenamin**
7 13254 **BRIDGE ROAD** 18 (P) J Candlish 7-11-3 **W Shanahan (7)**
8 025P1 **YOU SOME BOY** 14 (D) R Menzies 8-11-3 **A Anderson (5)**
9 032U5 **SHOESHINE BOY** 8 (D) D Whillans 7-11-1 **Craig Nichol**
10 13132 **FAITHFULFLYER** 10 (T,CD) A M Thomson 6-11-0 **B Hughes**
11 P21P2 **RED MISSILE** 33 (P,T,C) L Russell 6-10-13 **D R Fox**
12 00P14 **FORTCANYON** 35 (T) S Forster 7-10-8 **L Stones (5)**
13 03321 **LASTOFTHECOSMICS** 33 (P,T,CD) I Jardine 8-10-5 **D Johnston (7)**
14 05413 **RIBEYE** 32 (D) P Atkinson 8-10-3 **T Dowson**

9-2 Lastofthecosmics, 5-1 Crossing The Bar, 6-1 Red Missile, 8-1 Lock Down Luke, 10-1 You Some Boy, Faithfulflyer, 14-1 others.

**Wright choice: Lock Down Luke** again ran well when a good second at Kelso **Dangers** Bridge Road, Red Missile

### 3.30 Handicap Hurdle (£15,609: 2m 1f) (15)

1 31115 **WELL EDUCATED** 20 (D) G Bewley 7-12-0 **J Bewley (3)**
2 56355 **THE NAVIGATOR** 39 (CD) D Sayer 8-11-10 **C O'Farrell**
3 11430 **WOR VERGE** 46 (P,T,D) S Corbett 10-11-8 **S Coltherd**
4 P-111 **RUSSIAN VIRTUE** F15 (C,D) R Menzies 6-11-5 **N Moscrop**
5 -3541 **CAN'T STOP NOW** 23 (H,C) I Jardine 6-11-4 **D Johnston (7)**
6 23433 **CUBAN CIGAR** 23 (P,T) L Russell 5-11-1 **P W Wadge (5)**
7 2200 **SIMPLE STAR** 32 (T) D Sayer 5-10-13 **H Brooke**
8 301U5 **ZAMOND** 48 (P,D) D McCain 7-10-12 **B Hughes**
9 6-111 **IVETWIGGEDIT** 23 (D) T Lacey 6-10-12 **C Iles (10)**
10 46431 **SCOTS POET** 48 (T,C,D) Ewan Whillans 7-10-11 **Craig Nichol**
11 4PU02 **IOLANI** 32 (P,C,D) D Sayer 11-10-10 **Sean Quinlan**
12 5104P **TEN TEN TWENTY** 27 D J Jeffreys 5-10-8 **Lilly Pinchin (3)**
13 -1040 **JACKHAMMER** 123 D Sayer 9-10-5 **D McMenamin**
14 05255 **PATEEN** 170 (T,V,D) J Bedi 11-10-2 **Miss J Bedi (7)**
15 -0025 **BEBSIDE BANTER** 36 C Grant 6-10-2 **Mr A Ryan (7)**

2-1 Ivetwiggedit, 5-1 Russian Virtue, 13-2 Well Educated, Scots Poet, 10-1 Can't Stop Now, 12-1 Cuban Cigar, Iolani, 14-1 Zamond.

**Wright choice: Ivetwiggedit** has won all three starts since a change of trainer **Dangers** Cuban Cigar, Can't Stop Now

### 4.00 Handicap Hurdle (£5,281: 2m 4f) (7)

1 63451 **SHIR I DONT KNOW** 51 I Jardine 6-12-0 **D Johnston (7)**
2 -453P **SNOWY EVENING** 17 (P) O Greenall & J Guerriero 6-11-12 **H Brooke**
3 25345 **BALLYPOREEN** 54 D McCain 6-11-7 **B Hughes**
4 00111 **WHITE RHINO** 4 (D) O Greenall & J Guerriero 7-11-4(7ex) **Craig Nichol**
5 00000 **BELLA UNION** 27 J McConnell (Ire) 7-11-3 **Mr A Harvey (7)**
6 35056 **SANOSUKE** 24 (P) N Alexander 5-10-10 **C O'Farrell**
7 6-153 **LIGHTS ARE GREEN** 14 G Bewley 6-10-8 **J Bewley (3)**

10-11 White Rhino, 3-1 Shir I Dont Know, 10-1 Bella Union, Snowy Evening, 12-1 Lights Are Green, 14-1 Ballyporeen, 20-1 Sanosuke.

**Wright choice: White Rhino** is a rapidly-improving hurdler and can strike again **Danger** Lights Are Green

### 4.30 Open NH Flat Race (£2,723: 2m) (11)

1 2 **EL ELEFANTE** 75 L Russell 5-11-2 **D R Fox**
2 **LOOSE MOOSE** H Graham & G Rutherford 5-11-2 **E Austin (5)**
3 **NELLIE BLUESKY** Ewan Whillans 5-11-2 **Craig Nichol**
4 2 **OF COURSE YOU CAN** 43 N Mulholland 5-11-2 **S Ewing**
5 F2 **ON CLOUD NINE** 117 D McCain 5-11-2 **B Hughes**
6 5 **SCARLET O'TARA** 53 Dr R Newland 5-11-2 **C Hammond**
7 **UOKHUN** T Easterby 5-11-2 **J Hamilton**
8 **BISHOP HILL** L Russell 4-10-6 **P W Wadge (5)**
9 **CHAMPAGNE BREEZE** C Grant 4-10-6 **D McMenamin**
10 **FLEXI LADY** G Boanas 4-10-6 **Sean Quinlan**
11 3 **TOUCH OF A DRAGON** 38 M Hammond 4-10-6 **B Garritty**

5-2 Of Course You Can, 4-1 Touch Of A Dragon, 6-1 El Elefante, 13-2 On Cloud Nine, 7-1 Scarlet O'tara, 12-1 Bishop Hill, Nellie Bluesky, 14-1 Uokhun.

**Wright choice: Touch Of A Dragon** was third in a decent bumper at Ayr **Dangers** Of Course You Can, Nellie Bluesky

## Hereford
**Rob Wright**

**1.40** Hazy Dream
**2.15** Charles St
**2.50** Jigginstown King
**3.20** Credo
**3.50** Pawpaw
**4.20** Sinister Minister
**4.55** Lump Sum

**Going:** good to soft, soft in places
**Sky Sports Racing**

### 1.40 Handicap Hurdle (£4,330: 2m) (8)

1 -0603 **I GIORNI** 15 (H,T) A Honeyball 6-12-0 **R Dingle**
2 03PP5 **TALKINGTHETALK** 26 Sheila Lewis 6-11-13 **Sean Houlihan**
3 /22-2 **CREM FRESH** 67 F Brennan 9-11-10 **D Prichard (5)**
4 30004 **BELLA CIAO** 103 (H,T) M Keighley 6-11-0 **Harry Atkins (10)**
5 0500 **KENAHOPE** 42 O Murphy 5-10-13 **W T Kennedy**
6 2-063 **HAZY DREAM** 14 (H) J Tickle 7-10-5 **L Harrison (3)**
7 0-334 **TEASING GEORGIA** 39 D McCain 7-10-4 **William Maggs (10)**
8 5-300 **CHANTILLY HAZE** 19 P C Dando 8-10-3 **C Ring (3)**

9-4 Crem Fresh, 7-2 I Giorni, 4-1 Hazy Dream, 7-1 Bella Ciao, 10-1 Chantilly Haze, Teasing Georgia, 14-1 Kenahope, Talkingthetalk.

### 2.15 Maiden Hurdle (4-Y-O: £4,901: 2m) (6)

1 0 **ARCHER** 79 (W,T) M Harris 11-0 **H Reed**
2 2422 **CHARLES ST** 31 (B) F O'Brien 11-0 **L Harrison (3)**
3 F4 **JUST OVER LAND** 77 (T) S Thomas 11-0 **S Twiston-Davies**
4 P6 **SOUS SURVEILLANCE** 21 D F Davis 11-0 **B Ffrench-Davis (7)**
5 5U **DAMASK** 67 T Symonds 10-7 **B Poste**
6 4425 **JIKALA** 13 V Williams 10-7 **N Fox (7)**

5-4 Charles St, 9-4 Jikala, 7-2 Just Over Land, 8-1 Archer, 33-1 Damask, 66-1 Sous Surveillance.

### 2.50 Handicap Chase (£8,661: 3m 1f) (12)

1 23152 **PASEO** 76 V Williams 7-12-0 **Shane Quinlan (3)**
2 406P2 **JIGGINSTOWN KING** 37 (T) O Signy 6-12-0 **C Leonard (5)**
3 U3P25 **FURKASH** 26 (P) Joe Tizzard 8-11-11 **H Kimber (3)**
4 20454 **EMORELLE** 19 E Williams 6-11-8 **A Wedge**
5 21P32 **BORN AT MIDNIGHT** 22 W G M Turner 8-11-5 **B Ffrench-Davis (7)**
6 -6401 **KESTREL VALLEY** 22 (T) Kerry Lee 9-11-2 **S Twiston-Davies**
7 P004F **GIBBERWELL** 27 (V) J Coulson 7-10-10 **M Kendrick**
8 0P33P **SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL** 11 (H) J Tickle 8-10-6 **J Best**
9 5-4P4 **EARCOMESBOB** 9 (P,T) P Pritchard 8-10-5 **L Harrison (3)**
10 P6302 **VOICE OF HOPE** 9 (T) M Young 6-10-3 **Tabitha Worsley (3)**
11 0443P **OLD PAGE** 22 A Sadik 6-10-2 **B Poste**
12 P-PP0 **SON OF OZ** 79 (B) A Wintle 6-10-2 **Sean Houlihan**

5-2 Kestrel Valley, 5-1 Born At Midnight, Paseo, 7-1 Voice Of Hope, 12-1 Gibberwell, Jigginstown King, Furkash, Earcomesbob.

### 3.20 Handicap Hurdle (£10,245: 3m 1f 119yd) (5)

1 21221 **CREDO** 28 A Honeyball 8-12-0 **R Dingle**
2 -4222 **MARTHA BRAE** 31 D Skelton 8-11-11 **Bridget Andrews**
3 -4F20 **AIMEE DE SIVOLA** 51 (P) Mrs J Williams 9-11-8 **S Twiston-Davies**
4 45P03 **SANTA CLARITA** 9 (T) T Symonds 5-10-12 **B Poste**
5 51023 **FINE BY HER** 31 J S Smith 7-10-2 **F Lambert (5)**

5-4 Credo, 2-1 Martha Brae, 11-2 Fine By Her, 10-1 Santa Clarita, Aimee De Sivola.

### 3.50 Handicap Chase (£4,753: 2m 5f) (9)

1 33466 **NATTY NIGHT** 32 V Williams 7-12-0 **Shane Quinlan (3)**
2 32532 **PAWPAW** 30 (V) D Bridgwater 6-11-12 **C Quinn (5)**
3 606P1 **ARCADE ATTRACTION** 46 (P,T) E Williams 9-11-10 **A Wedge**
4 36311 **FAMILY POT** 37 (P,T,CD) Sheila Lewis 8-11-10 **Sean Houlihan**
5 24130 **SUPASUNRISE** 32 (P) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-6 **F Lambert (5)**
6 24345 **BLAZER'S MILL** 47 (P,T) S-J Davies 9-11-4 **W T Kennedy**
7 -5522 **ON THE PLATFORM** 19 J Groucott 7-11-3 **S Twiston-Davies**
8 P-PPP **KENYAN COWBOY** 76 (P) N King 7-10-7 **M Kendrick**
9 3-653 **MASTER MIKEY DEE** 54 Mrs R Ford 8-10-6 **H Reed**

11-4 Family Pot, 5-1 Arcade Attraction, Pawpaw, 11-2 On The Platform, 8-1 Supasunrise, Natty Night, Master Mikey Dee, 20-1 Kenyan Cowboy, Blazer's Mill.

### 4.20 Handicap Hurdle (£4,330: 2m 4f) (10)

1 -6053 **BERTIE B** 29 Clive Boultbee-Brooks 5-12-0 **Tommie O'Brien (3)**
2 5FP54 **SAMTARA** 2 (H) M Keighley 9-11-12 **Harry Atkins (10)**
3 P020 **ROYAL MER** 55 (W,T) D Pipe 5-11-9 **A Wedge**
4 050/6 **KINGFAST** 30 (P) F O'Brien 8-11-8 **L Harrison (3)**
5 5-60P **NIGHT JET** 11 T Symonds 6-11-4 **B Poste**
6 0P0-2 **SINISTER MINISTER** 169 (T) Sheila Lewis 8-10-12 **Sean Houlihan**
7 06-P5 **SIXTY DOLLARS MORE** 113 (B) Joe Tizzard 7-10-10 **H Kimber (3)**
8 65030 **GAMBIE TIEP** 76 S-J Davies 7-10-8 **J Best**
9 P2400 **MYSTIC MAN** 54 (P,T) O Sherwood 6-10-3 **B Bromley (5)**
10 0P-U0 **TRIBAL COMMANDER** 83 (P,T) Mrs S Leech 7-10-2 **Charlie Price (3)**

9-4 Sinister Minister, 3-1 Bertie B, 7-1 Samtara, 8-1 Mystic Man, 10-1 Kingfast, Royal Mer, Sixty Dollars More, 16-1 Gambie Tiep.

### 4.55 Open NH Flat Race (£2,614: 2m) (7)

1 1 **HEROS DE ROMAY** 73 K Bailey 6-11-9 **D Bass**
2 1 **LUMP SUM** 150 S Thomas 5-11-9 **S Twiston-Davies**
3 13 **SPIRITS BAY** 49 (BF,D) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-9 **F Lambert (5)**
4 4 **DAMARTA** 129 (H,BF) O Murphy 5-11-2 **F Gregory**
5 **MYFANWY'S MAGIC** (H) M Keighley 6-11-2 **J Best**
6 **STOP LOSS** F O'Brien 5-11-2 **M Kendrick**
7 0- **FORTUNE TRAVELLER** 469 J G O'Shea 6-10-9 **B Poste**

15-8 Lump Sum, 11-4 Heros De Romay, 4-1 Spirits Bay, 5-1 Stop Loss, 8-1 Damarta, 25-1 Myfanwy's Magic, 66-1 Fortune Traveller.

## Newbury
**Rob Wright**

**1.30** Future Investment
**2.05** Our Jet
**2.40** Arqoob (nb)
**3.10** Zanza
**3.40** Enzo D'Airy
**4.10** Ernest Gray
**4.45** Caryto Des Brosses

**Going:** soft — **Racing TV**

### 1.30 Novices' Hurdle (£4,901: 2m 4f 118yd) (14)

1 2-124 **ILIKO D'OLIVATE** 34 (T) P Nicholls 5-11-12 **H Cobden**
2 5/431 **KING OF BRAZIL** 12 Katy Price 6-11-12 **S Bowen**
3 21-1 **SOUND AND FURY** 16 B Pauling 6-11-12 **Luca Morgan**
4 2/1 **THE CARPENTER** 40 N Henderson 7-11-12 **N De Boinville**
5 1-P **BALLYHIGH** 92 N Henderson 6-11-5 **Paul O'Brien**
6 42316 **BALLYRASHANE** 11 Christian Williams 6-11-5 **J Tudor**
7 0 **CAPTAIN PROBUS** 82 K Burke 6-11-5 **J J Burke**
8 -4204 **FUTURE INVESTMENT** 45 A King 7-11-5 **G Sheehan**
9 5300 **INVICTUS ALLEN** 19 Christian Williams 5-11-5 **N Scholfield**
10 51- **MEETMEATTHEARCH** 341 (W) R Rowe 7-11-5 **N F Houlihan**
11 3-566 **NOLLYADOR** 45 (W,T) E Lavelle 6-11-5 **T Bellamy**
12 0 **RAJARAN** 19 E Lavelle 6-11-5 **J R Wildman (7)**
13 55 **TIME TO DAZZLE** 21 (H) G L Moore 5-11-5 **Jamie Moore**
14 P **CAPSTAN** 21 (H,T) Mrs L Richards 4-10-7 **T Cannon**

3-1 Iliko D'olivate, 10-3 The Carpenter, 5-1 Future Investment, 13-2 Sound And Fury, 8-1 King Of Brazil, 10-1 Nollyador, 16-1 Ballyhigh, 20-1 Meetmeatthearch.

### 2.05 Handicap Chase (£9,585: 2m 7f) (4)

1 0-213 **OUR JET** 48 (T,BF) D Skelton 7-11-10 **H Skelton**
2 11-11 **MANOTHEPEOPLE** 111 F O'Brien 8-11-9 **P Brennan**
3 -5P05 **BRIDGE NORTH** 41 H Daly 7-11-3 **H Cobden**
4 3-125 **WYNN HOUSE** 88 (W) A King 8-10-13 **T Cannon**

11-8 Manothepeople, 7-4 Our Jet, 9-2 Bridge North, 7-1 Wynn House.

### 2.40 Handicap Hurdle (£7,737: 2m) (10)

1 55/15 **TOTTERDOWN** 27 (H,D) R Phillips 12-12-0 **T Bellamy**
2 13040 **THIBAULT** 34 (T,D) A West 10-11-13 **L Edwards**
3 10-24 **DR T J ECKLEBURG** 76 (D) O Murphy 5-11-12 **A Coleman**
4 5-3PF **RUSSIAN RULER** 41 (T,D) N Henderson 6-11-11 **N De Boinville**
5 -1145 **MOTHILL** 112 (D) N Mulholland 5-11-8 **A P Heskin**
6 23216 **PONCHO** 20 (BF,D) G L Moore 5-11-6 **Jamie Moore**
7 241 **ARQOOB** 19 (D) L Wadham 5-11-5 **Bryony Frost**
8 32-55 **PUFFIN BAY** 245 (T,D) Harry Derham 6-10-12 **Paul O'Brien**
9 016 **POSTMARK** 27 (T,CD) M Harris 4-10-10 **M Bastyan**
10 -1124 **DENABLE** 19 (D) A Carson 7-10-9 **N Scholfield**

3-1 Dr T J Eckleburg, 7-2 Arqoob, 5-1 Russian Ruler, 8-1 Postmark, Puffin Bay, 10-1 Mothill, 12-1 Poncho, 14-1 Thibault.

### 3.10 Handicap Hurdle (£8,265: 3m) (14)

1 21014 **ZANZA** 20 (B,C) P Hobbs & J White 9-12-0 **M G Nolan**
2 P4-PP **ON THE BLIND SIDE** 69 (P,D) N Henderson 11-11-11 **N De Boinville**
3 1-113 **KNOWSLEY ROAD** 69 P Nicholls 6-11-8 **H Cobden**
4 P3-0P **BRINKLEY** 82 (W,P,C) D Pipe 8-11-7 **J Tudor**
5 1206P **LORD ACCORD** 8 (P,T) N Mulholland 8-11-6 **Luca Morgan**
6 01153 **HURRICANE HARVEY** 21 (T,D) F O'Brien 9-11-3 **J Hogan (5)**
7 4/1-0 **REGARDING RUTH** 41 (P,CD) L Wadham 9-11-1 **Bryony Frost**
8 -3130 **ABUFFALOSOLDIER** 47 (CD) W Greatrex 6-11-1 **S Bowen**
9 1/161 **KILBEG KING** 46 A Honeyball 8-10-13 **A Coleman**
10 22-13 **PHANTOM GETAWAY** 93 (P,BF,D) K Bailey 6-10-13 **C Gethings**
11 21121 **LOUP DE MAULDE** 12 (P) R L Llewellyn 6-10-11(7ex) **Toby Wynne (5)**
12 00556 **SKANDIBURG** 42 (T,D) Charlotte Fuller 9-10-10 **G Sheehan**
13 3113- **MISS FAIRFAX** 384 (BF) H Morrison 7-10-9 **J J Burke**
14 11414 **GOOD NEWS** 88 (V,D) Mrs L Richards 11-10-5 **T Cannon**

4-1 Knowsley Road, 5-1 Kilbeg King, 6-1 Phantom Getaway, 13-2 Loup De Maulde, 8-1 Zanza, 10-1 Abuffalosoldier, Miss Fairfax, 12-1 Hurricane Harvey.

### 3.40 Handicap Chase (£9,585: 2m 6f) (8)

1 102U2 **ENZO D'AIRY** 18 V Williams 9-12-1 **C Deutsch**
2 -4502 **FIVE STAR GETAWAY** 27 (P,BF) Christian Williams 9-12-1 **J Tudor**
3 -4335 **PRECIOUS ELEANOR** 28 H Daly 8-11-13 **H Cobden**
4 3-644 **YES INDEED** 21 (T,D) Jonjo O'Neill 6-11-12 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
5 FF143 **SHELDON** 39 Seamus Mullins 7-11-9 **M G Nolan**
6 15056 **FOXBORO** 13 (B,D) R Walford 8-11-7 **R T Dunne**
7 44212 **SEIGNEUR DES AS** 21 (T) M Harris 5-11-4 **J J Burke**
8 60300 **MILANFORD** 53 (W,T) Syd Hosie 9-10-10 **N Scholfield**

9-4 Five Star Getaway, 7-2 Enzo D'Airy, 5-1 Seigneur Des As, 7-1 Precious Eleanor, 8-1 Sheldon, Yes Indeed, 10-1 Foxboro, 25-1 Milanford.

### 4.10 Handicap Hurdle (£5,624: 3m) (16)

1 23U32 **BALLYMAGROARTY BOY** 15 (B) N Hawke 10-12-2 **T Buckley (3)**
2 -URP4 **YOUNG BUTLER** 30 (P) E Lavelle 7-12-1 **J A Anderson (7)**
3 -F452 **HAAS BOY** 12 (T) C Longsdon 6-12-1 **J J Burke**
4 31240 **SPORTING MIKE** 36 (T) B Pauling 6-12-0 **Luca Morgan**
5 -4541 **ERNEST GRAY** 21 (D) A King 6-12-0 **T Cannon**
6 3315P **RADDON TOP** 28 (P) C Down 10-12-0 **J M Davies**
7 F4253 **HOWAYA NOW** 41 R Bandey 5-11-12 **H Bannister**
8 -0410 **NO TACKLE** 60 S Drinkwater 6-11-12 **R T Dunne**
9 02062 **WAY OUT** 16 (H,BF) Syd Hosie 6-11-11 **N Scholfield**
10 -4261 **ISLAND RUN** 15 P Hobbs & J White 6-11-9 **M G Nolan**
11 404/2 **GENERAL PROBUS** 126 K Burke 9-11-8 **T Bellamy**
12 -35P2 **BALLYCAMUS** 21 N Twiston-Davies 6-11-6 **J Nailor**
13 11422 **SHOT BOII** 18 (V,D) D Pipe 6-11-6 **F Gillard (3)**
14 1544 **SOME SCOPE** 32 R Hobson 5-11-4 **G Sheehan**
15 3440P **GREY D'ALCO** 13 R Rowe 6-11-4 **N F Houlihan (3)**
16 61414 **COILLTE EILE** 31 (D) A West 10-10-11 **L Edwards**

9-2 Ernest Gray, 8-1 Island Run, 10-1 Ballycamus, General Probus, Shot Boii, Haas Boy, Howaya Now, Ballymagroarty Boy.

### 4.45 Hunters' Chase (£2,361: 2m 7f) (8)

1 00-32 **DROP FLIGHT** 43 (H,T) S Loxton 8-12-6 **Mr B Sutton (7)**
2 5P113 **FROM THE HEART** 31 (P,D) Mrs L Jones 9-12-6 **Miss N Parker (3)**
3 2-51P **ZAMPARELLI** 47 (B,T) Miss V Collins 11-12-6 **Doubtful**
4 11-21 **CARYTO DES BROSSES** 18 (D) D Kemp 11-12-2 **Mr D Peters**
5 -P021 **COUNT SIMON** 20 R Varnham 9-11-12 **Mr D Kyne (7)**
6 6/0PP **CROSSPARK** 41 N Kent 13-11-12 **Mr J Andrews**
7 2-111 **LIFT ME UP** 48 Miss M Filby 7-11-12 **Mr J King**
8 53243 **WHEESHT** 12 (D) Miss H Brookshaw 9-11-9 **Miss Aimee Jones**

9-4 Caryto Des Brosses, 11-4 Lift Me Up, 4-1 Crosspark, 5-1 Drop Flight, 10-1 Count Simon, 14-1 From The Heart, 20-1 Wheesht.

## Newcastle
**Rob Wright**

**5.15** Daaris
**5.45** Engles Rock
**6.15** St Andrew's Castle
**6.45** Brooklyn Nine Nine
**7.15** Blazing Son
**7.45 Fiftyshadesofred** (nap)
**8.15** Elzaal

**Going:** standard — **Sky Sports Racing**
**Draw:** no advantage

### 5.15 Handicap (£4,292: 1m 2f) (10)

1 (9) 43453 **PALLAS LORD** 15 (C) D Whillans 5-9-11 **T Fisher (5)**
2 (4) 0522- **DAARIS** 157 (BF) K Frost 4-9-11 **Billy Loughnane (5)**
3 (8) 5002- **GIVE GRACE** 151 I Jardine 4-9-8 **A Mullen**
4 (7) 60-06 **IT'S A LOVE THING** 34 (CD) J Butler 5-9-8 **D Muscutt**
5 (3) 030-0 **STEEL QUEEN** 51 (B,T) M J Browne (Ire) 6-9-6 **Cristiano Martins**
6 (2) 05-5 **IDEAL DREAM** 30 J J Davies 5-9-3 **Amie Waugh (5)**
7 (1) 34-00 **LITUUS** 21 (B) G Tuer 4-9-2 **S James**
8 (5) 6-002 **WE STILL BELIEVE** 10 (C) D Bourke 5-8-11 **J Hart**
9 (10) 60035 **ORIENTAL LILLY** 15 (C) J Goldie 9-8-9 **Shannon Watts (7)**
10 (6) 0000/ **BRIGHT DAWN** 571 B Rothwell 6-8-9 **F McManoman**

11-4 Daaris, 4-1 Pallas Lord, 9-2 We Still Believe, 7-1 Give Grace, 8-1 Oriental Lilly, 10-1 Lituus, Steel Queen, 12-1 It's A Love Thing.

### 5.45 Handicap (£4,292: 1m) (7)

1 (5) 05440 **ASDAA** 28 (P,CD) Charlie Johnston 7-9-10 **J Hart**
2 (3) 2005- **ROCKET ROD** 154 (CD) G Harker 6-9-10 **J Peate (5)**
3 (2) 0515- **SANDRET** 150 (CD) B Haslam 7-9-9 **G Lee**
4 (6) 6521- **BASHFUL** J68 (P,T,D) I Jardine 5-9-6 **A Mullen**
5 (7) 4164- **ENGLES ROCK** 169 (CD) L Russell 7-9-5 **Oisin Orr**
6 (4) 60-04 **DOUGIES DREAM** 15 (P,CD) N Tinkler 4-9-1 **F McManoman**
7 (1) -3015 **KING CARNEY** 15 (H,T,BF,CD) R Menzies 6-9-1 **P Mulrennan**

100-30 King Carney, 4-1 Dougies Dream, 5-1 Sandret, Bashful, 6-1 Engles Rock, 7-1 Rocket Rod, 8-1 Asdaa.

### 6.15 Handicap (£4,292: 7f) (8)

1 (5) 60-32 **CODE PURPLE** 38 (D) B Haslam 4-9-11 **G Lee**
2 (2) 3-252 **THE COLA BRASIL** 51 (P,T,D) M J Browne (Ire) 7-9-10 **Cristiano Martins**
3 (3) 20210 **JEMS BOND** 10 (P,CD) A Brown 6-9-10 **C Beasley**
4 (4) 0446- **ICE SHADOW** 179 A Brown 4-9-10 **C Bennett**
5 (6) 23043 **BOBBY JOE LEG** 8 (B,CD) R Carr 9-9-9 **JP Sullivan**
6 (8) 40001 **ST ANDREW'S CASTLE** 15 (P,CD) J Goldie 4-9-4 **P Mulrennan**
7 (1) 54516 **LUCKY LUCKY LUCKY** 15 (CD) N Tinkler 4-8-13 **R Scott**
8 (7) 50604 **DEOLALI** 10 (B,CD) Mrs Stella Barclay 9-8-9 **C Shepherd**

7-2 The Cola Brasil, 4-1 Code Purple, 9-2 St Andrew's Castle, 7-1 Bobby Joe Leg, Deolali, Jems Bond, 8-1 Lucky Lucky Lucky, 12-1 Ice Shadow.

### 6.45 Novice Stakes (£10,152: 6f) (9)

1 (3) 6 **DAN DE MAN CAN** 38 (H) J Camacho 4-10-2 **Doubtful**
2 (4) 6 **HEER HE GOES** 9 H Graham & G Rutherford 6-10-2 **C Murtagh**
3 (7) 4333- **LORD ABAMA** 161 M Dods 4-10-2 **C Beasley**
4 (9) 0-6 **AL NAJADA** 62 K R Burke 3-9-3 **S James**
5 (5) 0 **AZAIM** 9 M Dods 3-9-3 **P Dennis**
6 (6) 22- **BROOKLYN NINE NINE** 168 R Fahey 3-9-3 **Oisin Orr**
7 (1) **LEAP DAY** T Easterby 3-9-3 **D Fentiman**
8 (8) **WILLIAM DEWHIRST** B Haslam 3-9-3 **P Mulrennan**
9 (2) 0 **RUBELLITE** 31 W Haggas 3-8-12 **D Muscutt**

11-10 Brooklyn Nine Nine, 11-4 Lord Abama, 11-2 Rubellite, 7-1 Al Najada, 20-1 William Dewhirst, Leap Day, 33-1 Azaim, 50-1 Heer He Goes.

### 7.15 Handicap (£4,292: 6f) (11)

1 (8) 4211- **BLAZING SON** 112 (CD) B Smart 5-9-9 **Mark Winn (5)**
2 (3) 0-302 **THAKI** 15 (P,T,CD) Jessica Macey 6-9-9 **Billy Loughnane (5)**
3 (9) 40-00 **KAPONO** 22 (P,CD) R Fell 7-9-9 **Rossa Ryan**
4 (7) -4105 **ATHOLLBLAIR BOY** 21 (P,CD) N Tinkler 10-9-8 **Sophie Clements (7)**
5 (10) 10-04 **ATLANTIC HEART** 29 P Midgley 4-9-8 **G Lee**
6 (11) 61150 **TATHMEEN** 15 (P,CD) A Brittain 8-9-6 **H Russell (3)**
7 (5) 4-230 **MUMCAT** 35 (H) J Coward 4-9-5 **Joanna Mason**
8 (6) 4-220 **CROCODILE POWER** 43 (BF,C) J J Quinn 5-9-4 **J Hart**
9 (1) 5-126 **NICKLEBY** 15 (V,CD) J Camacho 4-9-3 **J Peate (5)**
10 (2) 3-646 **MACHO PRIDE** 22 (C,D) B Haslam 5-9-2 **H Shaw**
11 (4) 43332 **GUNNERSIDE** 10 (C,D) G Tuer 6-9-1 **S James**

7-2 Blazing Son, 4-1 Thaki, 6-1 Gunnerside, 7-1 Atlantic Heart, 10-1 Nickleby, Macho Pride, 12-1 Crocodile Power, Athollblair Boy.

### 7.45 Handicap (£7,956: 7f) (12)

1 (10) -1351 **MIGHTY POWER** 21 (C) Mrs Stella Barclay 5-9-9 **C Shepherd**
2 (6) 0100- **MUNTADAB** 153 (D) R Fell 11-9-8 **J Peate (5)**
3 (2) 20624 **STARSHIBA** 7 (V,D) D O'Meara 6-9-8 **B Robinson**
4 (7) 03453 **GOBI SUNSET** 9 (CD) Charlie Johnston 6-9-7 **J Hart**
5 (8) 5-124 **RON O** 15 (C) R Craggs 5-9-6 **T Eaves**
6 (4) 060-6 **MERCURIUS POWER** 73 (W,T,CD) Jessica Macey 5-9-6 **B Sanderson (3)**
7 (11) 6040- **FIFTYSHADESOFRED** 128 (CD) K Frost 5-9-4 **Billy Loughnane (5)**
8 (3) 3200- **AS IF BY CHANCE** 168 (V) N Tinkler 5-9-4 **R Scott**
9 (1) 4200/ **WINDSOR PASS** 517 J Butler 5-9-3 **D Muscutt**
10 (9) 2300- **EY UP ITS THE BOSS** 165 (P,D) T Coyle 4-9-2 **H Shaw**
11 (12) 23435 **PERFECT SWISS** 9 (C) T Easterby 7-9-0 **D Fentiman**
12 (5) 220-6 **CLOCH NUA** 75 (C) Mrs Stella Barclay 4-8-9 **S James**

7-2 Mighty Power, 4-1 Gobi Sunset, 5-1 Starshiba, 6-1 Ron O, 10-1 Perfect Swiss, 12-1 Cloch Nua, 14-1 Muntadab, Fiftyshadesofred.

### 8.15 Handicap (£4,292: 5f) (14)

1 (4) -1000 **SHABAABY** 15 (P,D) Ewan Whillans 8-9-9 **Oisin Orr**
2 (1) 26545 **ARAIFJAN** 7 (BF,D) M Herrington 6-9-9 **T Eaves**
3 (8) 05142 **ONE HART** 7 (C) G Tuer 6-9-8 **S James**
4 (9) 00064 **PRIMO'S COMET** 15 (CD) J Goldie 8-9-7 **Amie Waugh (5)**
5 (11) -1311 **ELZAAL** 21 (CD) P Midgley 5-9-7 **G Lee**
6 (7) 1-221 **ENRAGED** 32 (P,CD) J Camacho 4-9-6 **C Rodriguez**
7 (3) 066-2 **MEWS HOUSE** 21 (D) R Menzies 6-9-5 **C Bennett**
8 (5) 11622 **KRAKEN POWER** 29 (BF,CD) J Goldie 5-9-4 **P Mulrennan**
9 (2) 25-62 **MARWARI** 35 (BF,C,D) M & D Easterby 7-9-3 **Joanna Mason**
10 (12) 4600- **IMPRESSOR** 112 Phillip Makin 6-9-2 **R Scott**
11 (14) 40-20 **IMPERIAL KHAN** 42 (W) P Midgley 4-9-1 **Ryan Sexton (3)**
12 (10) 02144 **NELLIE FRENCH** 8 (T,CD) K Scott 6-8-13 **P Dennis**
13 (13) 61462 **ANOTHER ANGEL** 9 (V,CD) A Brittain 9-8-6 **C Hardie**
14 (6) 0-600 **MADAM ARKATI** 31 C Fairhurst 4-8-4 **Paula Muir (3)**

5-1 Enraged, 11-2 Elzaal, 6-1 One Hart, 7-1 Mews House, Marwari, 8-1 Kraken Power, 10-1 Araifjan, Another Angel.

## Course specialists

**Hereford: Trainers** S Thomas, 8 winners from 19 runners, 42.1%; K Lee, 14 from 45, 31.1%. **Jockeys** S Twiston-Davies, 23 winners from 83 rides, 27.7%; D Bass, 11 from 45, 24.4%.

**Musselburgh: Trainers** O Greenall & J Guerriero, 3 from 9, 33.3%; H Graham & G Rutherford, 3 from 11, 27.3%. **Jockeys** E Austin, 3 from 13, 23.1%; B Hughes, 43 from 201, 21.4%.

**Newbury: Trainers** Miss V Williams, 8 from 30, 26.7%; P Nicholls, 38 from 150, 25.3%. **Jockeys** C Deutsch, 9 from 28, 32.1%; H Cobden, 35 from 139, 25.2%.

**Newcastle: Trainers** W Haggas, 40 from 134, 29.9%; Alan Brown, 17 from 119, 14.3%. **Jockeys** B Loughnane, 7 from 19, 36.8%; Taylor Fisher, 4 from 22, 18.2%.

**Blinkered first time: Newcastle** 5.15 Steel Queen. 5.15 Lituus.

## Yesterday's racing results

### Chepstow

**Going:** soft

**1.25** (2m 11yd hdle) 1, **Ring The Moon** (N Fox, 33-1); 2, Big Blue Moon (8-11 fav); 3, Brown Bullet (9-2). 7 ran. NR: Cards Are Dealt. ¾l, 10l. Evan Williams.

**2.00** (2m 11yd hdle) 1, **Oakley Dancer** (S Bowen, 9-2); 2, Pure Theatre (15-2); 3, Nell's Bells (5-4 fav). 9 ran. 1¾l, 14l. O Murphy.

**2.35** (2m 7f 131yd hdle) 1, **Jasmiwa** (S Twiston-Davies, 11-4); 2, Rouge De L'quest (9-4 fav); 3, Our Bill's Aunt (4-1). 4 ran. NR: Leading Swoop, Stellar Stream, The Imposter. 6½l, 2l. N A Twiston-Davies.

**3.10** (3m 6f 130yd ch) 1, **Domaine De L'Isle** (A Wedge, 4-1); 2, Checkitout (100-30); 3, Achille (4-1). 5 ran. NR: Ballycross, Don Herbager. 7½l, 2½l. S Curran.

**3.45** (2m 3f 100yd hdle) 1, **Bert Wilson** (T Buckley, 9-1); 2, Barrier Peaks (11-4 fav); 3, Immortal Fame (11-1). 13 ran. NR: Oxygen, Portentoso. 1¼l, 5l. N J Hawke.

**4.20** (2m 7f 131yd ch) 1, **Rock Of Star** (J E Moore, 7-1); 2, Galop Du Bosc (40-1); 3, William Philo (7-2). 15 ran. 9l, 1½l. Alexandra Dunn.

**4.55** (2m 11yd Flat) 1, **Disco Daisy** (J Anderson, 6-1); 2, Chosen Hero (5-1); 3, Bethka (11-4 fav). 10 ran. NR: Dolly Delightful. 11l, 4¼l. Miss E C Lavelle.

**5.25** (2m 11yd Flat) 1, **Queen Annie** (B Bromley, 7-4 fav); 2, Tintagel Queen (6-1); 3, Edmond (3-1). 10 ran. Sh hd, 7½l. H Fry.

**Placepot: £101.00. Quadpot: £73.70.**

### Ludlow

**Going:** soft (good to soft in places)

**2.25** (1m 7f 169yd hdle) 1, **Welsh Charger** (J J Burke, 10-11 fav); 2, Gallopade (4-1); 3, John The Baptist (25-1). 9 ran. ½l, 7½l. A Ralph.

**3.00** (2m 4f 11yd ch) 1, **Jazz King** (T Cannon, 13-2); 2, Cartonne (3-1); 3, Zestful Hope (4-1). 5 ran. NR: Inishbiggle. 12l, 1¾l. S Thomas.

**3.35** (1m 7f 169yd hdle) 1, **Killaloan** (H Cobden, 11-10 fav); 2, Bertie's Wish (3-1); 3, Mamoon Star (100-30). 4 ran. NR: Issam, Paros. 3¼l, 32l. P F Nicholls.

**4.10** (2m 7f 171yd ch) 1, **Latitude** (A Edwards, 2-1); 2, Concetto (15-8 fav); 3, Tide Times (11-2). 6 ran. 6½l, 13l. M Rowley.

**4.45** (2m 5f 55yd hdle) 1, **Tightenourbelts** (T Bellamy, 30-100 fav); 2, Tikitov (9-2); 3, Lunar Contact (6-1). 5 ran. NR: Diamond Monarch. 18l, 55l. Miss E C Lavelle.

**5.20** (2m 5f 55yd hdle) 1, **Amrons Sage** (N de Boinville, 5-2); 2, Whatsupwithyou (6-1); 3, Duke Of Moravia (9-4 fav). 6 ran. NR: Malaita. ¾l, 2¾l. N J Henderson.

**5.50** (2m 4f 11yd ch) 1, **Fix At All** (Mr J J Murphy-Knight, 16-1); 2, Espoir De Teillee (8-11 fav); 3, Envious Editor (3-1). 7 ran. 3¼l, 10l. M Scudamore.

**Placepot: £13.00. Quadpot: £5.10.**

### Sedgefield

**Going:** soft

**1.40** (2m 1f ch) 1, **Grey Skies** (Theo Gillard, 100-30). 2 ran. D McCain Jr.

**2.15** (2m 178yd hdle) 1, **Forcing Bull** (T Gillard, 1-3 fav); 2, Mr Hailstone (5-2); 3, National Charter (50-1). 4 ran. 12l, 6½l. D McCain Jr.

**2.50** (2m 3f 188yd hdle) 1, **Hold Up La Colmine** (Ben Jones, Evens fav); 2, Hashtag Boum (2-1); 3, Coup De Gold (7-2). 4 ran. hd 5l. P Hobbs & J White

**3.25** (3m 2f 202yd ch) 1, **Wake Up Early** (C Hammond, 3-1); 2, Sir Apollo (100-30); 3, Captain Tommy (12-1). 4 ran. 1l, 15l. Dr R D P Newland.

**4.00** (3m 3f 9yd hdle) 1, **Thatbeatsbanagher** (J Hogan, 7-4 fav); 2, Ailes D'amour (13-2); 3, Master Of The Malt (15-2). 6 ran. NR: Storm Force One. 3l, 1½l. B Haslam.

**4.35** (2m 3f 65yd ch) 1, **Blue Hawaii** (S Quinlan, 9-2); 2, Coolmoyne (11-4); 3, Trac (15-8 fav). 5 ran. 12l, 30l. T Collier.

**5.10** (2m 178yd hdle) 1, **Horn Cape** (J Hogan, 7-4 fav); 2, Lovin Jukebox (7-2); 3, Edgar Allan Poe (100-30). 6 ran. 9l, nk. B Haslam.

**Placepot: £240.80. Quadpot: £34.50.**

# Baxter: RFU can stop exodus

CONTINUED FROM BACK

Watson would be the most high-profile to turn his back on his international career.

The news comes amid mounting controversy over the eligibility issue, with Rob Baxter, the Exeter Chiefs director of rugby, accusing Borthwick of acting as "poacher turned gamekeeper" over the issue of whether he should be allowed to select foreign-based players for England. Simon Massie-Taylor, the Premiership Rugby chief executive, said the restriction would remain in place, despite Borthwick's opposition.

If Watson does move abroad it would not rule him out of the World Cup this autumn, as he would join after that tournament. While most of the England players moving to France are on the fringes of Borthwick's squad, the departure of Watson would be significant. The wing, who has 55 caps, re-established himself as England's first choice during the Six Nations, returning to the team for the first time in two years against Scotland before starting against Wales, France and Ireland.

Baxter will lose a number of his leading players to French clubs next season as the £5 million salary cap restriction in the Gallagher Premiership begins to take its toll. That includes England players such as Luke Cowan-Dickie, Sam Simmonds and possibly Jack Nowell, while Joe Marchant will leave Harlequins for Stade Français this summer and David Ribbans is joining Toulon from Northampton Saints. Jack Willis, who was allowed to represent England this season after joining Toulouse when Wasps went bust, is expected to prolong his stay in France.

Amid this exodus of talent, Borthwick has made it clear that he would like the RFU to change its stance on eligibility. Since 2012, England have only selected players from the Premiership, a policy designed to ensure a strong domestic league and good access to the players for England. Baxter feels that Borthwick's views would not be the same were he still in charge at Leicester Tigers, the job he left in December to replace Eddie Jones as England head coach.

"I like Steve and we get on well but that is real poacher turned gamekeeper," Baxter said. "If he was head coach of Leicester he would be going, 'There is absolutely no way there should be any form of dispensation for any player playing outside the Premiership.' I am the director of rugby of a Premiership team, so there is absolutely no way an England player should be allowed to be selected from outside England. No way at all.

"If the RFU want to stop players moving, there is a simple way of doing it: you put your hand in your pocket and pay. Basically what Steve and the RFU are asking for there is for other people to pay the salary and for them to still be available. It is a little bit having your cake and eating it.

"I can understand Steve's point. He wants to be able to select the best players he can. The whole job changes between being a club coach and being an international coach, priorities shift very quickly but for me the balance lies somewhere 50-50. We are limited currently by the salary cap and by the financial position in the Premiership, so if the RFU wants to bridge the gap it needs to bridge the gap [financially]. I think that is quite a simple expectation from the Premiership rather than trying to create exceptions when people can go and take salaries abroad."

The RFU is in the process of renegotiating the Professional Game Agreement that underpins its relationship with the clubs, and Massie-Taylor said the restriction on overseas-based players would stay in force.

"Having our English players playing within the Premiership is important for England and for the Premiership," Massie-Taylor said.

"From the RFU's, ours and even the players' perspective, we all see the importance of England internationals playing domestically. Provisions exist for exceptional circumstances that will probably still carry on going forward, but we all agree England international players should be playing in the Premiership. There will always be an international market for players, and players have that choice to go abroad and not play for England."

The clause for "exceptional circumstances" has been invoked only once, allowing Willis to be picked for England while playing for Toulouse, whom he joined after the financial collapse of Wasps in mid-season. Otherwise, players have known that moving abroad would scupper their chances of playing international rugby.

Amid threats of a player strike, the Welsh union recently tweaked its regulation aimed at keeping as many international players at the four regions as possible. Previously, only players with more than 60 caps were able to play outside Wales and remain eligible for the national team, but that will now be reduced to 25 caps.

Mark McCall, the Saracens director of rugby, said this week that central contracts should be considered as part of the new club-country agreement, and Baxter thinks that players included in England's extended Elite Playing Squad (EPS) should be paid retainers.

"A simple answer is that if you get selected in the EPS, there is a retainer payment, rather than all the payment being based around match-day selections," Baxter said. "A lot of the guys the RFU are concerned about leaving are in that fringe area. They don't know if they are going to pick up regular payments and caps. But a squad payment or retainer for that season, for a lot of guys fighting to be in that EPS squad, it could make a considerable difference."

### England players in France

**Definitely playing in France next season**
**Jack Nowell** (Exeter, wing, 45 England caps) La Rochelle
**Sam Simmonds** (Exeter, back row, 18) Montpellier
**Luke Cowan-Dickie** (Exeter, hooker, 41 caps) Montpellier
**Harry Williams** (Exeter, prop, 19 caps) Montpellier
**David Ribbans** (Northampton, lock, 4 caps) Toulon
**Joe Marchant** (Harlequins, centre, 15 caps) Stade Francais

**Possibly playing in France**
**Jack Willis** (Toulouse, flanker, 10 caps) Could stay at Toulouse having joined after Wasps collapse
**Anthony Watson** (Leicester, wing, 55) Could join Castres



Watson would be the most high-profile England player to join the France exodus

# Why Ireland could be happy to lose Springbok showdown

**Stuart Barnes**



Two of the quarter-finals could be colossal, the semi-finals a pair of forgettable damp squibs. We are, of course, considering the World Cup this autumn and the much-derided draw — conducted almost a full three years before the tournament — that has set the world's top four teams on a collision course for two of the most terrific last-eight clashes in the tournament's history.

The hosts, France, and the All Blacks are the sharks in pool A. The defending champions, the Springboks, and the world's No1 side, Ireland, loom large in pool B, with the presence of Scotland making this group all the more red-toothed.

The next world champions will come from one of those two pools. Australia, Argentina, England, Wales, Fiji and Japan may have their moments but the gulf between the giants from pools A and B, compared with pools C and D, is too great to be bridged on more than the one occasion. A giant-killing, along the lines of England's defeat of New Zealand in the 2019 semi-final, is possible, but back-to-back wins against the best teams won't happen.

The gap between the leading four sides and the rest is too great for lightning to strike twice within the space of a week in Saint-Denis. There has been much debate on the potential early exit of two of the big four; less on the fact that the semi-finals should be comfortably won by the two teams who escape the quarter-finals from hell. From Ireland's perspective it is not so much a matter of Dante's *Inferno* as Danty's. The French inside centre Jonathan Danty transformed his team when he returned for the final two rounds of the Six Nations. He bossed the gainline and dominated the turnovers against England at Twickenham.

Here were the basics that France had missed in the earlier rounds. Against Wales, Danty displayed the deftest of hands to set up his centre partner, Gaël Fickou, for the most glorious of tries. Fickou had been quiet without the bowling-ball brilliance of his La Rochelle buddy. Suddenly he was striding imperiously through defences. France lost their focus against Wales but here was a message as bold as the one transcribed on the turf of Twickenham a week earlier: "We are the side to beat."

On September 8 France kick the competition off against New Zealand. Sixteen years ago, when they previously started a World Cup at home, I was in the commentary box watching them implode against Argentina. This is a different France. They will take some beating on home soil. No Brexit, anti-French bullshit here please. Cheese eating? Yes. Surrender monkeys? Not on your life.

Their football team handled home pressure to batter Brazil 3-0 in the 1998 World Cup final at the Stade de France, while the gritty 2022 grand-slam win in Paris came against an England team who, like this season, were more adept at losing with honour than winning. France's 2007 defeats by Argentina and later England in the semi-final were the mark of a mediocre team who left everything they had in Cardiff after somehow hanging on in the quarter-final against a panicky All Blacks side. This is an infinitely superior French team. They are likely to make a statement on the opening night. Then again, if any side can catch them cold with their own fluid attacking game, it is New Zealand.

Were New Zealand to win, I wonder whether Andy Farrell would consider — how shall we phrase it — throwing considerably less than the kitchen sink at Ireland's mega match with South Africa 15 days later? France would be formidable opponents come a quarter-final; the round that reads like a curse to Irish rugby fans.

If Ireland lose to the defending champions (as the Springboks did in the pool stage to New Zealand in Japan four years ago), they would then — assuming the All Blacks have beaten France — be set up for a clash against New Zealand on neutral territory. If France win on the opening night, then Ireland would need to beat the Springboks and top the group to avoid the host nation.

In recent years, Ireland have scared the bejesus out of the men in black more than any other nation, with five wins from their past eight clashes (including that psychological series win in New Zealand) since their bogey-breaking victory in Chicago in 2016. To win the World Cup, a team have to win the final, not every game.

There is no need to be macho and accept facing France in a frenzied Parisian knockout game if the evidence indicates that the better route to lifting the trophy is via a last-eight meeting with New Zealand, a side capable of great rugby but who have been horribly twitchy in the Ian Foster era. Let South Africa win the pool and slog it out at the quarter-final stage. All this rather rudely

# with better pay

DAVID ROGERS/GETTY IMAGES




and his exit would increase pressure on the RFU to alter its eligibility rules — which risks incurring the wrath of the clubs

## The lopsided World Cup draw

The best five teams in the world are in Pool A or B, meaning only two of the five can make it into the semi-finals

**Top five ranked teams** Present world ranking in brackets — Matches that can feature top-five ranked teams in the world

**POOL A**
**France (2)**
**New Zealand (3)**
Italy (14)
Uruguay (17)
Namibia (21)

**POOL B**
**Ireland (1)**
**South Africa (4)**
**Scotland (5)**
Tonga (15)
Romania (19)

**POOL C**
Australia (7)
Wales (9)
Georgia (11)
Fiji (13)
Portugal (16)

**POOL D**
England (6)
Argentina (8)
Japan (10)
Samoa (11)
Chile (22)

**QUARTER-FINAL 1**
October 14, 4pm
Stade Vélodrome
Winner Pool C v Runner-up Pool D

**QUARTER-FINAL 2**
October 14, 4pm
Stade de France
Winner Pool B v Runner-up Pool A

**QUARTER-FINAL 3**
October 15, 4pm
Stade Vélodrome
Winner Pool D v Runner-up Pool C

**QUARTER-FINAL 4**
October 15, 4pm
Stade de France
Winner Pool A v Runner-up Pool B

**SEMI-FINAL 1**
October 20 8pm
Stade de France
Winner QF1 v Winner QF2

**SEMI-FINAL 2**
October 21 8pm
Stade de France
Winner QF3 v Winner QF4

**FINAL**
Saturday
October 28, 8pm
Stade de France
Winner SF1 v Winner SF2

**BRONZE FINAL**
Friday
October 27, 8pm
Stade de France
Loser SF1 v Loser SF2

discounts Scotland but Ireland are not heading to France just to take part. Gregor Townsend's team are dangerous but if Farrell's men are serious contenders (they are) then the odd risk is worth taking. It goes against the sporting grain to want to lose a game but it wasn't Ireland who came up with a system, potentially pitting them against the host nation. If France pull off an opening-night victory, everything would become simple for Johnny Sexton's side. Beat the Springboks and avoid the might of France. Whichever way you look at it, New Zealand are the Irish's quarter-finalists of choice. If they must face France, let it be in the final.

# Testosterone threshold halved for intersex athletes like Semenya

CONTINUED FROM BACK

testosterone levels permitted. Instead, World Athletics' ruling council decided to follow swimming's lead in excluding transgender women from female competition altogether because of the physical advantages gained by going through male puberty.

Coe told a news conference: "The World Athletics Council has taken decisive action to protect the female category in our sport and do so by restricting the participation of trans athletes.

"We take the view that we must maintain fairness for female athletes above all other considerations. We will be guided in this by the science around physical performance and male advantage which will inevitably develop over the coming years. As more evidence becomes available, we will review our position."

Sharron Davies, the former British swimmer who, like Coe, won an Olympic medal at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, had been campaigning for a ban and said she was "surprised but so pleased", adding: "I always hoped that Seb [Coe] would put fairness first and this is a really important step — and one other sports must now follow."

The IOC's guidelines are that sports should allow transgender women to compete in female events if their testosterone levels have been below 5nmol/litre for a year. Most sports, including rowing and cycling, have followed those guidelines.

Coe said a working group would be set up to spend 12 months looking at the issue of transgender inclusion, including possibly having an open category, which would include transgender athletes.

The council also tightened restrictions on athletes with differences in sex development (DSD), such as South Africa's two-times Olympic 800m champion Caster Semenya, who although they have male chromosomes and internal testes have been raised as girls since birth. The new rules will cut in half the maximum permitted testosterone level for DSD athletes to 2.5nmol/L. That ruling will be extended to cover all events, not just those between 400m and a mile.

The tighter restrictions are expected to have an impact on DSD athletes, including Namibia's Christine Mboma, the 2020 Olympic silver medal winner in the 200m, and Francine Niyonsaba from Burundi, who finished runner-up to Semenya in the 800m at the 2016 Olympics. Mboma dropped from 400m to 200m to avoid taking testosterone blockers, while Niyonsaba and Semenya both went from 800m to 5,000m.

The new rules mean they will all have to have testosterone lower than 2.5nmol/L for six months, and in the longer term World Athletics will extend the time period to two years. Semenya has previously said her performance levels dropped significantly when obliged to take the contraceptive pill to reduce her testosterone levels.

World Athletics' decision on Russia and Belarus puts it on a collision course with the IOC, but Coe said that the ban would last for the "foreseeable future", even though the eight-year suspension imposed for state-sponsored doping was officially lifted.

Athletics is seen as the biggest Olympic sport, so its ban on Russians will be a significant dent in the IOC president Thomas Bach's efforts to secure their participation in Paris as neutrals. "That is for the foreseeable future because of the invasion and ongoing war in Ukraine," Coe said.

The British government has also been involved in political efforts to persuade the IOC to maintain a ban on Russian and Belarusian athletes.




Olympian Semenya is an athlete with difference in sex development

# Ban for runner who lied over EPO being in Covid vaccine

**Martyn Ziegler** Chief Sports Reporter

A distance runner who invented a story that he was mistakenly injected with EPO when he went for a Covid vaccination has claimed that drug-taking is common at the top of elite sport.

New Zealander Zane Robertson, 33, has been banned for eight years after testing positive for the blood-boosting drug at the Great Manchester Run last year. He was banned for four years for the offence and another four years for fabricating a cover-up.

Robertson, who won 5,000m bronze at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, trained for most of his career in Kenya and Ethiopia. He told the *Runners Only* podcast that he took the drug once due to "frustration and anger" at the sport, as well as being in "a dark place" after a painful divorce.

Asked why he had taken the EPO (Erythropoietin), Robertson said: "It had been building on me for a few years. Frustration and anger at the sport itself… in any elite sport I believe the top is not a level playing field, like they say. I started to ask myself this question, 'Why do people like myself always have to be the ones to lose or suffer', and in the end lose our contracts, lose our income, lose our race winnings and end up not having the ability to have a family.

"The other reason, especially after the Covid era, prize money in races went down. I was constantly getting injured in the race shoes I was trying to develop. Nothing was seeming to go my way. I made some bad decisions in a really dark place."

After testing positive, Robertson invented a story that the banned drug had got into his body after he visited a Kenyan medical facility to get a Covid-19 vaccination, and was given EPO as part of treatment for Covid.

He supported his evidence with sworn affidavits from two Kenyan doctors, but dropped the defence when the medical facility said EPO was not administered there and that he had not gone there on the stated date.

"I want to take full blame for that," Robertson said. "To me, four years is the same as eight. It's the end of my career."

Sport

# Raducanu's dilemma – protect wrist or ranking?

CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY IMAGES



The wrist injury has limited the power in Raducanu's groundstrokes recently

**Tennis**
**Stuart Fraser** Tennis Correspondent

As Emma Raducanu prepares to consult with medical specialists over a long-term fix for the pain in her right wrist, she revealed that her decision last week not to play for Great Britain in the Billie Jean King Cup on April 14-15 came after concern about the risks of a quick transition from hard courts to clay.

"I think because of my existing injuries, the best medical advice was to not switch surfaces at such short notice," Raducanu said after her Miami Open first-round exit on Wednesday. "That's what I've been told. Of course I would love to play the Billie Jean King Cup. It's just this scenario is not the best for my body. I really need to look after myself and do what's best for me on the match court."

Whether Raducanu is adequately recuperated in time for the start of the European clay-court swing on April 17 remains to be seen. Given she admitted on Wednesday that "the current solutions aren't viable in the long term", it seems unlikely that 3½ weeks is sufficient to resolve the recurrence of a wrist problem that emerged last October.

While the 20-year-old has not given any specific details of the issue, it is encouraging that she was still able to contest five matches over the past fortnight in the United States. The manner of her performances, including victories against two top-25 players in Beatriz Haddad Maia and Magda Linette at the Indian Wells Open, suggest that it is not a serious career-threatening injury that requires immediate surgery.

Nonetheless, the pain is still troublesome enough to leave Raducanu feeling that she cannot fully unleash her groundstrokes. There were times during her three-set defeat by Canada's Bianca Andreescu in Miami when she appeared reluctant to trust that her wrist would hold up to the load required in hitting powerful forehands and backhands. This is clearly unsustainable for a tennis player.

The challenge for Raducanu in weighing up how long to rest is that there is an upcoming three-week period during which she has more than a quarter of her 839 ranking points to defend. She earned 120 points for a quarter-final appearance at the Porsche Grand Prix in Stuttgart last year, and 100 for reaching the last 16 of the Madrid Open. At present ranked No 72, she will drop outside the top 100 if she does not win a match between April 17 and May 7.

It is not uncommon for young players to suffer wrist issues as they adapt to the rigours of the tour. Andy Murray reluctantly accepted in 2007 that three months of rest was required to allow tendon damage to heal, which forced him out of the French Open and Wimbledon. Clearly this was a case of short-term pain for long-term gain, given what he went on to achieve in the sport.

Unfortunately some never recover, despite their best efforts. Long before Raducanu came along, Laura Robson was considered Britain's most promising female player, with her easy power and ability to rise to the occasion. Her progress was swiftly halted by two operations on her left wrist, and she was never again the same player before retiring last year with hip problems.

Raducanu is now at the point where she is openly making clear the exasperation with her series of physical problems. Since winning the 2021 US Open she has been beset by an assortment of injuries from her shoulder to her ankle.

There was an acknowledgment by Raducanu at the end of last season that her body needed to become more robust. She hired Murray's former physical trainer Jez Green to oversee her off-court training and felt she had made significant gains during preseason. The wrist pain in recent weeks has made it difficult to build on these.

Raducanu will hope that this latest setback is long in the past by the time the Paris 2024 Olympics comes around. Her decision not to compete in Britain's Billie Jean King Cup qualifier against France in Coventry had raised some questions over her Olympic participation because she remains one tie short of meeting eligibility requirements, but she will almost certainly receive an exemption on medical grounds should she need it.

Even if Raducanu were to fall short of the 56-player cut for Paris, her status as a grand-slam champion allows her to put her name forward for special entry. The only requirement is that she is one of the two highest-ranked eligible applicants inside the world's top 400 on June 10, 2024. "I would love to play the Olympics," Raducanu confirmed on Wednesday.

## Stelling not happy with Sky shake-up

**Football**
**Martyn Ziegler** Chief Sports Reporter

Jeff Stelling, the long-serving host of Sky's *Soccer Saturday*, has verbally agreed to present the flagship show next season but is understood to be shocked by the potential axing of colleagues such as touchline reporter Geoff Shreeves.

Stelling, 68, has told Sky chiefs that he will remain as host of the Saturday afternoon results programme — nearly 30 years after he started presenting it — but he was not consulted about a proposed shake-up at Sky, and has told friends that he has been left saddened by the move.

Sky has launched a consultation process that would lead to 13 football reporters — including Stelling's long-serving colleague Shreeves — needing to reapply for their jobs, with some of them expected to lose their positions.

A year ago Stelling decided to retire but changed his mind and stayed on, working on a season-by-season agreement.

The 13 reporters, many of whom report into the *Soccer Saturday* programme, have been told about a restructuring plan, under which they would have to apply for one of seven specialist match reporter roles or one of five "content creator" posts.

The "content creator" roles appear to be aimed at more junior staff, with the idea that they appear on *Soccer Saturday* to gain experience of being on air. The restructuring does not cover Sky Sports news reporters.

A Sky spokesman said: "Our proposal would mean the creation of new roles and the closing of some existing roles, and we are currently in a consultation period with our people."

## Retired Foster lured back by Wrexham

**Charlotte Duncker**

Ben Foster has come out of retirement to sign for the National League leaders Wrexham — 18 years after he previously played for the club.

The former England goalkeeper, 39, retired last September but has been lured back by the Welsh side, which is owned by the actors Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney.

"It's changed a lot since I was last here, but it's nice to be back and it's nice to be back as a player too," Foster said. "It will be interesting to see how my body feels after training today."

Foster played 21 games for Wrexham in 2005 as a loanee from Stoke City, including a key role in the LDV Vans Trophy Final win against Southend United. "I do owe a lot to Wrexham," he said.

Foster has also played for Watford, Birmingham City, West Bromwich Albion and Manchester United and won eight England caps. He had the chance to sign for Newcastle United last year but did not want to leave his wife and children, who live in the Midlands.

He gives Phil Parkinson, the Wrexham manager, much-needed cover after Rob Lainton, their first-choice goalkeeper, was ruled out for six weeks with a knee injury. They are three points clear of Notts County at the top of the fifth tier, with a game in hand, as they look to return to the Football League.

# Evans lands £100k Hundred deal after ban is lifted

**Cricket**
**Elizabeth Ammon**

Laurie Evans has secured a £100,000 contract with Manchester Originals 24 hours after his suspension for a failed drugs test was lifted temporarily.

The Surrey white-ball batsman had been suspended from all cricket after failing a routine anti-doping test during last summer's Hundred tournament, but the suspension was lifted by the ECB to allow Evans to be part of yesterday's player draft and leaves him free to play for his county this season.

Evans, who was retained by the Originals, denies taking any banned substances, and, in a break from the usual protocols, has been allowed to resume playing until a hearing on the matter, which is likely to take place at the end of the season.

Welsh Fire were the big winners in the men's player draft. Having finished seventh in 2021 and bottom last year, they had eight spots to fill, and the new coach, Michael Hussey, who has replaced Gary Kirsten, secured the high-profile names of Shaheen Shah Afridi for £100,000 and his fellow Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf for £60,000. They will join up with the Northamptonshire and England bowler David Willey and Tom Abell, the Somerset captain, who is expected to lead the franchise this summer.

Ben Duckett departed Cardiff, joining Birmingham Phoenix from Welsh Fire for £125,000. It was a disappointing day, though, for Matt Parkinson. The Lancashire leg spinner, who was playing for England's limited-overs team as recently as last year, was released by the Originals and not picked up by any of the eight franchises, most of whom had only three or four spots to fill. It is still possible that Parkinson will be selected as one of 16 wild-card picks after the end of the T20 Blast group stages.




Evans was retained by the Originals for £100,000, the second-highest pay band

Centrally contracted England multiformat players are allocated to a franchise. However, they are not expected to feature much, if at all, in the tournament, which begins on August 1, the day after the scheduled completion of the Ashes.

The first ever women's draft also took place yesterday, with the England star Sophia Dunkley and the South Africa fast bowler Shabnim Ismail heading up the selections by Welsh Fire on the top contracts of £31,250. South Africa's opener Laura Wolvaardt was signed on a top contract by Manchester Originals.

Seven slots in the women's squads have been left unfilled in the draft, with the teams expected to fill them on the open market by approaching players directly to arrange a contract.

The Hundred will be played across four weeks in a window that is clear from international cricket, a move that has attracted significant criticism. Critics have also noted that a number of overseas stars from both genders did not enter themselves in the player draft or withdrew at the last minute.

Many of the Australian men and women did not want to remain in the UK after the end of their respective Ashes series while other players have had their availability for the Hundred restricted by the international schedule or because they want to take part in the Caribbean Premier League.

# Glazers should take the £5bn and run

**Matt Dickinson**

Senior Sports Writer



Perhaps the most remarkable thing about the sale of Manchester United, even as world-record bids were being submitted, was that no one could be certain the Glazers were going to grab all that money and run back to Florida.

Twitchiness that two of the six siblings, Joel and Avram, might yet find a way to insert themselves into a compromise deal, clinging on to a stake, was causing consternation even with offers that would make United the highest-priced sporting entity in the world and reward the Glazers far beyond if not their dreams then certainly their merits.

The range of bids — with estimates of between £5 billion and £5.5 billion as the highest valuation — includes an offer for a minority stake from Elliott Investment Management, which could give the Glazers money, options and continued control. What an alarming thought.

Might at least two of the Glazers think of backing out of a full sale now, adding another twist to what has become a soap opera? "There would be a riot," as one source said, but then there have been riots already; a match against Liverpool abandoned; effigies set on fire; green-and-gold campaigns. The Glazers have been immovable through it all. For how much longer?

It is high time they departed English football; good riddance to owners who have brought nothing but unwelcome lessons in leveraged buyouts, payment-in-kind loans and rapaciousness. They have spent huge sums of money on ill-fitting signings and maintaining one of the biggest wage bills in global football without having the team to show for it; neglected scouting and recruitment; run down the stadium; traded on a glorious past without any innovation; and delegated woefully, allowing the Ed Woodward regime to regard the London business HQ as importantly as the Carrington training ground, which was perhaps the most fundamental mistake of all.

They are blessed that this grand club — "a national institution with a spiritual dimension" as the late, great Hugh McIlvanney once put it — still holds such global allure even after their 18 years of stewardship and can attract serious bidders with wealth beyond our comprehension.

From the Qatari group and Sir Jim Ratcliffe, the Ineos billionaire, they have offers backed by one of the globe's wealthiest states and one of the planet's richest businessmen, who also happens to be a fan of the club, well in excess of the market capitalisation of about $3.9 billion (which faltered yesterday amid the uncertainty).

Even if the Glazers agree with Todd Boehly's punt that the Premier League boom is far from over — the most popular global league still having room for commercial growth and the biggest clubs sure to increase in value so that his £2.5 billion purchase of Chelsea could look very smart in five to ten years — will the United owners gamble that they can make £6 billion, or more, further down the line?

ZUMA PRESS/MEGA




A United fan protests against the ownership of the Glazers, who have the chance to sell the club to bidders including Ratcliffe, right, but may yet be tempted to stay on

It is a desperate thought for United fans, which they hope will be alleviated within the next couple of weeks by the announcement of a preferred bidder. Greed will be piled on greed, with fresh dollops of supporter outrage, if the Glazers were to think about staying on.

Still, no one, least of all United fans, will believe they are gone until they are able to jeer the Glazers out of a city that they have never been able to enjoy except behind the darkened windows of a fast-moving car.

The bid from Qatar, and Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani, is regarded as favourite simply because of resources. As one person with knowledge of that bid put it: "They are working on instruction not to come back without a deal." The group know that if it is an issue of money then there is no way they should be beaten.

Limitless wealth should, though, not wipe away all the other qualms.

The prospect of United as a sportswashing enterprise will perturb some fans. For others, it may be more the practical, sporting issue of looking at Paris Saint-Germain under Qatari ownership and wondering if that is to be their dubious fate.

Yes, the owners have shattered records to lure superstars but to then allow those players to run the show has been a repeated failing. Leading managers, including Carlo Ancelotti, Thomas Tuchel and Mauricio Pochettino, come and go without any sense that they were ever in charge.

A club obsessed with polishing their brand as much as their trophy collection have gorged on French domestic silverware but have failed to make it beyond the first knockout round in the Champions League in five of the past seven seasons, reaching one final but never convincing as a continental force despite the superstar roster.

While the Premier League and Uefa are not expected to stand in the way of a Qatari bid, the declared intention to buy the full 100 per cent of United shares may also make it a more protracted takeover.

The Ineos bid is based on majority ownership, buying out the Glazers' 69 per cent, which should be a less-complicated process. When I interviewed Ratcliffe last year about buying Chelsea, he said that he could transfer several billion that weekend.

It could be that quick, even if this is the biggest deal in the history of sport to outstrip the $4.65 billion (approximately £3.8 billion) paid for the Denver Broncos in the NFL by an ownership group led by Rob Walton, the heir to the fortune of Walmart, the US retailing giant.

United fans will have their own questions about how Ineos will recruit the necessary expertise should the petrochemicals company add the club to its expanding sporting roster, but performance focus should be paramount. Whoever takes over at Old Trafford needs to give the whole club a 21st century makeover and, for all the talk of neglect of the stadium, that work needs to start at the training ground. The urgency must be to find the very best people in their field to shake up scouting, recruitment and the performance department, which have all faltered over the past decade.



None of that will be accomplished properly as long as the Glazers are running the place. They have tested the market and, as well as the odd eccentric bid — the Finnish businessman Thomas Zilliacus claims he has offered to buy United via a partnership with fans — we know for sure that the owners have a golden opportunity now to make a clean, lucrative break. They appear to have a choice of world-record bids; and the option, if it matters to them, of what type of owner takes the club forward, between Middle Eastern wealth and a British billionaire born less than ten miles from the ground.

It could, should, be relatively quick and straightforward, which is not to say that it will be without a whole fresh set of big questions, especially if the Qatari bid is successful. The alternative, of staying on, would take contrariness to a new mindblowing level, even for the Glazers.

## Former AC Milan owners bid for stake

**Matt Lawton**
Chief Sports Correspondent

The American former owners of AC Milan have tabled an offer for a minority stake in Manchester United.

Elliott Investment Management, which before selling Milan last year celebrated the Italian side's first Serie A title in a decade, had initially made a proposal offering financing to any potential bidders.

However, the firm was among the groups given a tour of Old Trafford and the club's Carrington training ground last week — as well as access to key United staff, the club's US bankers and finance data — and has now decided to bid for a stake.

Sources familiar with the situation have said that an offer was submitted on Wednesday before the original 9pm deadline, for a "small amount of common equity" in addition to an offer to provide financing for any bidders.

The development comes at a time when there is already concern among bidders that a reluctance by any potential buyer to reach the valuation of £6 billion could result in the Glazer family opting for a minority investment rather than a full sale. Ineos finally submitted their second bid yesterday afternoon, with the Qataris expected to come back with their improved offer today.



**Sheikh Jassim is set to make an improved bid today**

The deadline for second bids was initially Wednesday evening, but the sale process descended into farce when the Qatari bid, headed by Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani, and the Jim Ratcliffe-led Ineos bid said privately they had made offers, only for United sources to claim they had not. It is understood that the two groups asked for more time to finalise the detail of their bids, which were both expected to be worth more than £5 billion.

Yesterday a Finnish entrepreneur claimed that he had submitted a bid for United, but sources close to the process said it was not being taken seriously. Thomas Zilliacus said he had offered to buy half the club and wanted up to a billion United fans around the world to pay about £3 each to buy the other half.

## United charged after players surrounded referee in cup tie

Manchester United have been charged by the FA for surrounding Chris Kavanagh, the referee, in Sunday's fiery FA Cup quarter-final win over Fulham.

United's players appealed to the referee for a handball after Kavanagh originally awarded a corner when Willian blocked Jadon Sancho's shot on the goalline. Sancho, Bruno Fernandes, Harry Maguire and Luke Shaw all confronted Kavangh, whose decision sparked a chaotic few minutes.

The referee changed his call after checking the pitchside monitor and sent Willian off.

Kavanagh was then pushed by the Fulham striker, Aleksandar Mitrovic, who was also dismissed along with Marco Silva, the Fulham head coach. Silva and Mitrovic have already been sanctioned by the FA, with the latter facing a lengthy suspension, and United have now also been charged over the behaviour of their players at Old Trafford.

An FA statement read: "Manchester United FC has been charged after its players surrounded a match official during the 71st minute of the FA Cup tie against Fulham FC on Sunday 19 March.

"It's alleged that Manchester United FC failed to ensure its players conducted themselves in an orderly fashion and/or do not behave in a way which is improper.

"Manchester United FC has until Monday 27 March to respond."

# Ronaldo hits double in record 197th appearance

| | |
|---|---|
| **Portugal** *Cancelo 8, Silva 47, Ronaldo 51 (pen), 63* | 4 |
| **Liechtenstein** | 0 |

**Paul Hirst** Lisbon

For Cristiano Ronaldo, it probably felt like old times. His name was back on the scoresheet, he broke another record and upwards of 45,000 people were singing his name.

For most of the night, the 45,378 fans inside the José Alvalade Stadium had been pretty quiet, and understandably so: Roberto Martínez's first match in charge of Portugal came against Liechtenstein, the 198th-ranked team in the world. But when Portugal won a penalty in the 51st minute, a feeling of nervous excitement filled the air.

When Ronaldo's spot kick hit the back of the net, a roar echoed around the stadium and then came an even louder "Siu" as the 38-year-old striker carried out his trademark celebration, spinning in the air before landing on the turf and thrusting his arms out.

It was the same story 12 minutes later when Ronaldo fired a fierce free kick through the arms of Benjamin Buchel in the Liechtenstein goal to put Portugal 4-0 up.


QUALITY SPORT IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

Ronaldo celebrates his 51st-minute penalty — the 38-year-old forward has the record for caps and goals in the men's game

Had Uefa not awarded Portugal's first goal to João Cancelo even though the full back's shot flicked Ronaldo's boot before going in, the captain would have had the 11th international hat-trick of his career.

How Ronaldo must have longed for this kind of atmosphere and this level of support around him during the past few months in Saudi Arabia. Joao Félix, Bernardo Silva and Bruno Fernandes all buzzed around the pitch, aiming to carve out opportunities for the No7.

The opposition may have been poor, but it was a night that Ronaldo will never forget. He became the most-capped player in men's international football, surpassing Bader Al-Mutawa's record of 196 appearances for Kuwait.

Martínez was given the chance to sever ties with Ronaldo after he was appointed as Fernando Santos's successor in January, but he decided against doing so. Martínez and Ronaldo have spoken warmly about each other in public since their first training session at the Cidade do Futebol on Monday.

Barring a big fallout, which is unlikely — Martínez is a good man-manager — Ronaldo looks set to be part of this squad until the European Championship next year, although Goncalo Ramos, the free-scoring Benfica striker, will start ahead of him from time to time. "It is important to have Cristiano's commitment and experience," Martínez said last night.

He has had his critics, but Ronaldo's statistics are incredible. He has 120 international goals, and of the 43 European nations he has faced, Ronaldo has scored against 33 of them.

● The Bolton Wanderers striker Dion Charles's first international goals earned Michael O'Neill's Northern Ireland a 2-0 Euro 2024 qualifying victory over San Marino.

# Mbappé plans to speak his mind as he leads France into new era

**Ian Hawkey**

They have been playing happy families at French football's headquarters. In the next four days, a pair of Thuram brothers, Marcus and Khéphren, may well have appeared together for the first time in the national jersey their father, Lilian, used to wear with such distinction. In tonight's Euro 2024 qualifier against Holland, Theo Hernández will again be covering the left-back position vacated by his injured sibling, Lucas.

Amid all this fond fraternité in a national team with a long, chequered history of squabble and division, there is little doubt who the real daddy is. Kylian Mbappé has been named France captain and the 24-year-old promised last night to be a very different leader from his predecessor, Hugo Lloris, the low-key diplomat who retired from international football after December's dramatic World Cup final against Argentina deposed France as world champions.

"Do you want me to change?" Mbappé responded to a question, at his first press conference as captain, about his back catalogue of forthright challenges to the national FA that has now made him, very officially, its chief flagbearer. "Each captain is different and true to their own character," he said. "I may be wrong but I don't think the manager [Didier Deschamps] wants me to be exactly the same as Hugo was."



Mbappé has replaced Lloris as France captain

No promises, then, that Mbappé will not make more stands against the contractual demands placed on national team players by sponsors, as he did last year; or not criticise, as he did more recently, the French Football Federation's president — who has since resigned — for showing "disrespect" to a former France captain, Zinédine Zidane. Or that he will not publicly upbraid a colleague, as he did Olivier Giroud just before Euro 2020, for Giroud's complaints to the media about how little he received the ball.

"I have a voice that gets listened to in the dressing room," said Mbappé, a World Cup winner at 18, a record-breaking goalscorer and a sportsman with a highly developed understanding of the mechanics of power. He had France's president, Emmanuel Macron, on the phone to him last season, requesting that, rather than join Real Madrid, he stay at Paris Saint-Germain because France needed its major sporting icon in France's capital. Mbappé remained at PSG, becoming the highest-paid footballer in the history of the game, and clarifying during his negotiations various issues of club hierarchy and how elevated he should be in it.

Deschamps says that Mbappé has "all the qualities for captaincy", a role Deschamps himself filled, with Zidane and Thuram senior among his team-mates, during the period of France's most concentrated success, the back-to-back 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000 triumphs. "Kylian wasn't born when I was made captain," Deschamps pointed out yesterday, dismissing an idea his experience wearing the armband might be relevant.




What Deschamps, now into his 11th year as France's head coach, does appreciate is that expertise and leadership need to be cherished and rewarded. Elite footballers quit national service more readily than they used to. One obvious successor to Lloris as skipper, Manchester United's Raphaël Varane, retired from Les Bleus after collecting his silver medal in Qatar. Another pillar of the national team, Juventus's Paul Pogba, has not won a cap, largely because of injury, for very nearly a year. Chelsea's N'Golo Kanté has not been fit enough to add to his 53 caps since last June. Meanwhile, the Frenchman who skippers Real Madrid and holds the Ballon D'Or, Karim Benzema, has such a damaged relationship with Deschamps there is no possibility of his being asked to reconsider his international retirement.

The experience of Antoine Griezmann, greatly trusted by Deschamps, has been bypassed in handing Mbappé the armband. The coach and Mbappé both acknowledged the Atletico Madrid player, who has 117 caps, 51 more than Mbappé, had been "disappointed" to learn on Monday, the evening before his 32nd birthday, he would not be the new leader. "It's understandable," Mbappé said. "I told Antoine I'd have been the same in his position. He's maybe been the most important player of the Deschamps era.

"I'm in no way his superior in the hierarchy. We go side by side. I will be the kind of captain who brings people together, and makes sure all of them feel free to express themselves. It's a pleasure for me to be alongside such quality."

Mbappé would be entitled to feel his reign as captain has already been blessed with what every good general needs: luck. Holland, the toughest-looking opponent in group B of Euro 2024 qualifying, arrived in Paris with a virus having ruled out five players, including Liverpool's Cody Gakpo, Newcastle United's Sven Botman and Bayern Munich's Matthijs de Ligt.

# Tuchel set for Bayern – and Pep reunion

**Constantin Eckner**

Thomas Tuchel is expected to replace Julian Nagelsmann as the Bayern Munich manager today.

Tuchel, who has been out of a job since Chelsea sacked him in September, is in line to make a return to England when Bayern take on Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final tie on April 11. It was Tuchel's Chelsea who beat Guardiola's City in the 2021 final.

Tuchel moved back to Germany after his dismissal by Chelsea and made no secret of his desire to manage Bayern. He got his wish last night when the club's board sacked Nagelsmann, four days after Bayern lost 2-1 to Bayer Leverkusen. The 49-year-old Tuchel is expected to be in charge for the home match against Borussia Dortmund in the Bundesliga on Saturday, April 1.

Bayern have kept a clean sheet in seven out of eight Champions League matches this season and trail Dortmund by only one point in the Bundesliga but the club have seemingly changed their mind on the manager they endorsed after the defeat against Leverkusen.

The 35-year-old is thought to have antagonised a number of players and was unable to establish the position of dominance at the top of the Bundesliga table that the club expect.

João Cancelo, who is on loan at Bayern from City, was stunned by the news. "I didn't know [about Nagelsmann]," the full back said after Portugal's 4-0 win over Liechtenstein last night. "I was a little surprised. I want to thank Mr Nagelsmann, he was the one who wanted me at Bayern."

# Flag insulting Maradona leads to clampdown on England fans

**Matt Lawton**
Chief Sports Correspondent, Naples

CIRO FUSCO/EPA






The mood among England fans was relaxed, until one unveiled a flag celebrating Maradona's death, left. It prompted both Napoli's ultras and police to mobilise

Until one utter moron unfurled an England flag decorated with a deeply offensive message about the once great footballer for whom this city has become a shrine, it was all going so well.

If there was concern that Naples would witness yet more violent clashes between fans after the trouble that marred last week's Champions League match between Napoli and Eintracht Frankfurt, those fears had not materialised. On the contrary, late on the eve of England's European Championship qualifier against Italy, a city already preparing itself for a glorious celebration of another, long-awaited Serie A title was bathed in silence; quiet enough even for taxi drivers to snooze while waiting for their next fare on the deserted Via Santa Caterina.

The port area where many of the 2,500 England fans congregated was heavily populated with police and Italian soldiers, and the night passed peacefully; according to officers from the UK Football Policing Unit (UKFPU), not a single incident was reported.

It remained much the same for most of the match day, well-mannered England supporters taking the opportunity to wear shorts and T-shirts in the 17-degree Mediterranean sunshine to the surprise of locals still sporting their stylish winter wardrobes. The focus, it seemed, was on headers rather than headbutts, while sinking a few beers.

This was no accident. The UKFPU has been in constant communication with its Italian counterparts since the controversial decision was taken to stage this game at the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona and the two forces have worked closely these past few days, even travelling together to the airport to meet supporters off their flights.

If the level of interrogation they received felt intrusive — fans had to provide details of their accommodation as they stood waiting in the baggage reclaim area — there was a calm response to an approach designed as much to protect these visitors from potential issues with Napoli ultras as to impose a level of control.

Clearly, however, it does not take much to spark trouble in these parts and the publication on social media of a photograph of an England fan essentially mocking the passing of Diego Maradona a few hours before kick-off did the trick. In fairness, it is hard to think of anything more provocative than "Diego's In A Box".

The individual in the photograph already boasts quite the reputation, thanks to his links to the convicted far-right activist Tommy Robinson and his role in the appearance of that "White Lives Matter Burnley" banner that was flown over the Etihad Stadium three years ago.

On this occasion, his actions not only invited direct threats from angry Italians but persuaded Napoli ultras previously showing no interest in this international fixture to mobilise.

While the police made efforts to track down the culprit, the FA identified him and cancelled his match ticket. "We strongly condemn the actions of the individual who travelled to Naples with a flag that had a highly offensive message on it," said an FA official. "We immediately took steps to have their ticket cancelled before the match."

Sadly it was too late. The police received reports that ultras had taken to the streets and the Italian authorities reacted by delaying the arrival of England's fans to the ground, sending the free buses they had provided on a particularly circuitous route on what is normally a four-mile trip.

For some, the time it took from taking a seat on the bus at the Stazione Marittima to their reaching their seat in the stadium was three hours, moods not exactly enhanced by the four security checkpoints they then had to pass to gain entry. At the heavily policed perimeter some England fans complained of being made to feel like criminals, and in the end the tension resulted in some brief but violent exchanges between baton-wielding Italian officers and England fans anxious about missing the start of the game. One supporter was knocked unconscious and required treatment from English police officers, who later reported that he recovered sufficiently to attend the game.

Roberto Mancini, the Italy manager, had local dignitaries nodding in agreement during his pre-match press conference when he said it was normally the visiting supporters who caused problems in Naples, and sadly a section of the English support proved him right to some extent.

While there were the predictable blasts of "no surrender to the IRA", there were also a few chants of the same slogan that had been written on that flag. "Diego In A Box," they cried, much to the embarrassment of the FA and the more mature members of the English contingent on a historic night for Gareth Southgate and his side.

# Barcelona at risk of ban from Europe

**Martyn Ziegler** Chief Sports Reporter

Barcelona are facing the threat of a possible Champions League ban after Uefa announced its own investigation into the club paying millions of euros to a company run by a senior Spanish refereeing official.

It comes as Spanish prosecutors pursue a case against Barcelona over payments to Jose Maria Enriquez Negreira's company totalling €7.3 million (about £6.5 million) from 2001 to 2017, while he was the vice-president of Spanish football's referees' committee.

Regulations introduced in April 2007 allow Uefa to ban teams from its competitions for one season if they have been involved in fixing matches, even if those were not in Uefa competitions. It previously barred the Turkish clubs Fenerbahce (from the Champions League) and Besiktas (from the Europa League) under those regulations.

Barcelona have denied any wrongdoing, saying the money was for technical reports on referees and youth players. No evidence has yet been published that referees or individual games were actually influenced.

**Barcelona president Laporta denies that the club "bought referees"**



Any suspension from Uefa's elite club competition would be a serious blow to Barcelona, who have been struggling financially since the Covid pandemic. The club have a 12-point lead in La Liga and look certain to qualify for next season's Champions League, which would guarantee at least €50 million of income.

Uefa said in a statement: "Ethics and disciplinary inspectors have today been appointed to conduct an investigation regarding a potential violation of Uefa's legal framework by FC Barcelona."

Prosecutors in Spain have formally accused Barcelona of corruption, fraudulent management and falsification of business documents. An investigating judge will decide if this will lead to charges. The payments came to light as part of a tax probe into Negreira's company.

The Barcelona president, Joan Laporta, said last month: "Barça has never bought referees and Barça has never had any intention of buying referees."

## Results

### Football

**European Championship qualifying**
**Group C**

**Italy** (0) **1** **England** (2) **2**
Retegui 56 | Rice 13, Kane 44 (pen)
Sent off: L Shaw (England) 80

**N Macedonia** (0) **2** **Malta** (0) **1**
Elmas 66, Churlinov 72 | Yankam 85

● Table on page 68

**Group H**

**Denmark** (1) **3** **Finland** (0) **1**
Hojlund 21, 82, 90+3 | Antman 53

**Kazakhstan** (1) **1** **Slovenia** (0) **2**
Samorodov 23 | Brekalo 47, Vipotnik 78

**San Marino** (0) **0** **N Ireland** (1) **2**
Charles 24, 55

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Denmark** | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | **3** |
| **N Ireland** | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | **3** |
| **Slovenia** | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | **3** |
| **Kazakhstan** | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | -1 | **0** |
| **Finland** | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | -2 | **0** |
| **San Marino** | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | -2 | **0** |

**Group J**

**Bosnia-Herz** (2) **3** **Iceland** (0) **0**
Krunic 14, 40, Dedic 63 | 9,234

**Portugal** (1) **4** **Liechtenstein** (0) **0**
Cancelo 8, Silva 47, Ronaldo 51 (pen), 63

**Slovakia** (0) **0** **Luxembourg** (0) **0**
3,523

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Portugal** | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 | **3** |
| **Bosnia-H** | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | **3** |
| **Slovakia** | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **1** |
| **Luxembourg** | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **1** |
| **Iceland** | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | -3 | **0** |
| **Liechtenstein** | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | -4 | **0** |

**Under-21 international** Scotland 2 Sweden 3 (in Pinatar, Spain).

### Basketball

**BBL Championship** London Lions 100 Newcastle Eagles 69.

### Cricket

**Third one-day international**
**Sylhet** Ireland 101 (28.1 overs: Hasan Mahmud 5 for 32); Bangladesh 102-0 (13.1 overs: Litton Das 50 not out). ***Bangladesh won by ten wickets***.
● Bangladesh won three-match series 2-0

**Second one-day international**
**Harare** Zimbabwe 271 (49.2 overs: C Madande 52; Shariz Ahmad 5 for 43); Netherlands 270 (50 overs: M P O'Dowd 81, T L W Cooper 74). ***Zimbabwe won by one run***.
● Three-match series level 1-1

### Cycling

**Volta a Catalunya**
**Fourth stage** (Llívia to Sabadell, 188.2km): 1, K Groves (Aus, Alpecin-Deceuninck) 4hr 19min 37sec; 2, B Coquard (Fr, Cofidis); 3, C Strong (NZ, Israel-Premier Tech) both same time. **Overall** 1, P Roglic (Slove, Jumbo-Visma) 17:01:54; 2, R Evenepoel (Bel, Soudal-Quick-Step) same time; 3, G Ciccone (It, Trek-Segafredo) at 19sec behind; 33, A Yates (GB, UAE Team Emirates) 12min.

### Golf

**WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play**
**Austin** (United States unless stated): **First round** T Montgomery bt S Lowry (Ire) 2 and 1; M Homa bt J Suh 3 and 2; H Matsuyama (Japan) bt K Kisner 1 hole; S Burns bt A Hadwin (Can) 3 and 2; A Scott (Aus) bt S Power (Ire) 1 hole; Cantlay bt N Taylor (Can) 1 hole; B Harman bt Lee Kyoung-hoon (S Kor) 3 and 1; Im Sung-jae (S Kor) bt M McNealy 8 and 6; C Morikawa bt V Perez (Fr) 2 and 1; J Day (Aus) bt A Svensson (Can) 4 and 2; Kim Si-woo (S Kor) bt C Kirk 4 and 3; M Kuchar bt V Hovland (Nor) 3 and 1; J T Poston bt T Fleetwood (Eng) 3 and 2; S Scheffler bt D Riley 1 hole; Kim Joo-hyung (S Kor) bt A Noren (Swe) 2 and 1. **Second round** T Finau bt A Meronk (Pol) 4 and 3; H English bt W Zalatoris 5 and 3; K Kitayama bt C Bezuidenhout (SA) 2 and 1; A Putnam bt R Fox (NZ) 2 and 1; D Thompson bt S Straka (Austria) 4 and 3; J Rahm (Sp) bt K Mitchell 4 and 3; C Young bt C Conners (Can) 1 hole; B Horschel bt R Fowler 3 and 2; M Hughes (Can) bt Lowry 4 and 3; Montgomery bt J Spieth 2 and 1; Homa bt Kisner 3 and 2; Suh bt Matsuyama 3 and 1; P Cantlay bt Lee 4 and 2; Burns bt A Scott (Aus) 1 hole; Power bt Hadwin 1 hole; Harman bt Taylor 3 and 2; Kim Si-woo bt Hovland 4 and 3; Morikawa halved with Svensson; Day bt Perez 2 and 1; Scheffler bt Noren 5 and 4, Kirk halved with Kuchar.

**DP World Tour Jonsson Workwear Open**
**Midrand, South Africa: Leading first-round scores** (play suspended because of bad light, resumes today; South Africa unless stated): **64** M Vorster, D Fichardt. **65** S Soederberg (Swe), J Lagergren (Swe), N Bachem (Ger), H O'Kennedy. **66** E Ferguson (Scot), C Hill (Scot), J Schaper, G Green (Malaysia), G Coetzee, A Cockerill (Can), N Noergaard Moeller (Den), M Leth Simonsen (Den).

### Rugby league

**Betfred Super League** Huddersfield Giants 12 St Helens 14.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Warrington** | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 160 | 76 | **10** |
| **Catalans D** | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 134 | 58 | **10** |
| **Wigan** | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 138 | 57 | **6** |
| **Salford** | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 124 | 97 | **6** |
| **St Helens** | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 94 | 75 | **6** |
| **Huddersfield** | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 84 | 60 | **4** |
| **Hull KR** | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 98 | 102 | **4** |
| **Leeds** | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 87 | 102 | **4** |
| **Leigh** | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 86 | 109 | **4** |
| **Hull** | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 86 | 166 | **4** |
| **Castleford** | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 56 | 136 | **2** |
| **Wakefield** | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 37 | 146 | **0** |

### Tennis

**Miami Open**
**Men: First round** J Struff (Ger) bt F Fognini (It) 6-4, 5-7, 6-4; U Humbert (Fr) bt G Monfils (Fr) 3-3 ret; E Nava (US) bt J Isner (US) 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-4); J Lehecka (Cz) bt F Coria (Arg) 6-3, 6-4; Q Halys (Fr) bt P Martínez (Sp) 6-2, 7-6 (7-4); A Kovacevic (US) bt J Munar (Sp) 7-6 (7-4), 2-6, 6-1; C Garín (Chile) bt M Giron (US) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4; R Carballés Baena (Sp) bt B Zapata Miralles (Sp) 6-0, 3-0, ret; A Mannarino (Fr) bt Shang Juncheng (China) 1-6, 6-4, 6-2; A Molcan (Slova) bt J Thompson (Aus) 6-2, 4-6, 6-3; C Eubanks (US) bt D Kudla (US) 7-6 (7-2), 6-2; M McDonald (US) bt D Galán (Col) 6-4, 6-2; Y Watanuki (Japan) bt B Paire (Fr) 6-4, 7-5. **Women: First round** S Rogers (US) bt S Stephens (US) 6-4, 3-6, 6-2; A Blinkova (Russ) bt J Niemeier (Ger) 6-4, 6-1. **Second round** E Mertens (Bel) bt D Kasatkina (Russ) 4-6, 6-2, 6-2; Zheng Qinwen (China) bt I-C Begu (Rom) 2-6, 6-1, 6-1; P Badosa (Sp) bt L Siegemund (Ger) 7-6 (7-2), 4-6, 6-2; P Martic (Cro) bt Wang Xiyu (China) 6.3, 6-3; J Pegula (US) bt K Sebov (Can) 6-3, 6-1; D Collins (US) bt V Tomova (Bul) 7-6 (7-3), 6-2; L Samsonova (Russ) bt V Golubic (Switz) 6.1, 6-1; J Ostapenko (Lat) bt M Bjorklund (Swe) 6-3, 6-4; A Potapova (Russ) bt M Kostyuk (Ukr) 6-1, 6-3; C Gauff (US) bt R Marino (Can) 6-4, 6-3.

## Fixtures

### Football

Kick-off 7.45 unless stated

**European Championship qualifying: Group B** France v Holland; Gibraltar v Greece. **Group E** Czech Republic v Poland; Moldova v Faroe Islands. **Group F** Austria v Azerbaijan; Sweden v Belgium. **Group G** Bulgaria v Montenegro (5.0); Serbia v Lithuania.

**Uefa Nations League C: Relegation play-off, first legs** (5.0); Belarus v Lithuania; Cyprus v Gibraltar.

**Women's Super League** Everton v Liverpool (7.30).

**Cinch Scottish Championship** Ayr v Cove Rangers; Inverness CT v Partick; Queen's Park v Arbroath. **League One** Clyde v Airdrieonians (7.30); FC Edinburgh v Queen of South; Falkirk v Kelty Hearts. **League Two** East Fife v Elgin (8.0).

### Rugby league

**Betfred Super League** (8.0): Castleford Tigers v Warrington Wolves; Wakefield Trinity v Hull Kingston Rovers; Wigan Warriors v Salford Red Devils.

### Rugby union

**Gallagher Premiership** Newcastle Falcons v Gloucester (7.45).

**RFU Championship** Hartpury v Ampthill (7.45).

**United Rugby Championship** Leinster v Stormers (7.35); Zebre v Cardiff Rugby (7.10).

# Kane penalty redemption a

**Henry Winter**
Chief Football Writer, Naples



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Italy** | *Retegui 56* | 1 |
| **England** | *Rice 13, Kane 44 (pen)* | 2 |

"Revenge" was the succinct verdict of one England player, smiling broadly as he strode from Stadio Diego Armando Maradona late last night. He left behind the vanquished Italians, England's nemesis at the last Euros, and it felt very good. It felt personal.

Revenge. These are experienced professionals, focused on the job in hand, in their tactical responsibilities but emotion runs through them. Revenge. Their satisfaction at an important, deserved victory revealed how much pain they had endured from Italy's shoot-out victory over them at Wembley in 2021 and also their relegation from the Nations League upper tier at the hands of the Italians in Milan in 2022.

This felt almost a seminal moment, a sign that they could live with Italy, a major footballing nation, the European champions no less. Italy are in transition, and were deeply disappointing in the first half but they fielded players of the calibre of Marco Verratti and Jorginho, and a highly capable goalkeeper in Gianluigi Donnarumma. They deserve respect, which is why England's win deserves so much respect.

This was a night of so many positive emotions for England, of joy for Declan Rice as he demonstrated his many qualities, shielding the back four and also scoring, and also a night of awe for the history-making Harry Kane.

Kane collapsed to the floor at the final whistle, having given everything for his country in a famous if slightly nervy Euro 2024 qualifying win. Kane broke England's goalscoring record, moving ahead of Wayne Rooney with 54 goals in 81 games, and broke Italian hearts. When Italy were flooding forward in the second half, emboldened by Roberto Mancini's changes, pulling a goal back through Mateo Retegui, and given further hope after Luke Shaw's dismissal for two bookable offences, England really needed their captain.

Kane responded. His stamina, his sheer determination came even more to the fore. He went running down the right, running down the clock. That was pure Kane, putting his personal joy over his astonishing individual achievement to one side and making sure that his team got over the line, that all the points were England's.

This was also a night of admiration for England centre backs, Harry Maguire, so questioned at Manchester United but so important for his country beyond a couple of troubled moments here, and John Stones, again agile and alert.

England have so many good players and Gareth Southgate allowed them to play on the front foot. Gone was the inhibition that held them back against elite opponents in the past. This was a half to rank alongside some of their best moments against Germany at Euro 2020 and, in an away game, against Spain in 2018.

Importantly, as in Seville, Southgate allowed them to start in their best formation, 4-3-3, with Jude Bellingham again showing his prodigious potential with runs from midfield ably anchored by Rice and Kalvin Phillips. Phillips was slightly rusty, understandably so after his stop-start-stop season with Manchester City, but it is easy to understand why Southgate values him. Phillips's axis with Rice is Southgate's preferred choice.

After all the criticism of Rice, including that he didn't score enough, it was only fitting that he should strike early. The West Ham midfield player had already shown his defensive importance during a few early nervous moments. And then, when England settled impressively, Rice had his third goal in his 40th international.

Bellingham had already roamed forward to good effect, and won a corner after 12 minutes with a shot that Donnarumma pushed over. Bukayo Saka curled the corner towards the far post with his left foot. Kane lost Lorenzo Pellegrini, peeling left to gain some space, and his shot was blocked by Leonardo Spinazzola. Rice reacted quickest to the rebound, striking the ball past Donnarumma.

England were in control, the scoreline reflecting their supremacy. England fans launched into *God save The King*, including a blast of No Surrender in the middle. They never learn. There was even a distasteful chant about Maradona, a legend revered in these parts.

Some of the England fans were taken on a three-hour drive from their hotels to the stadium, ostensibly to keep them safe from the Napoli Ultras, especially after one travelling idiot posted a picture with a "Diego's in a box" flag. Disgusting.

England profited from another Saka corner a minute from the break, again curled to the far post. Kane tried to play the ball back across and it was blocked by Giovanni di Lorenzo. Kane immediately turned appealing to Srdjan Jovanovic, the Serbian referee, and soon five England players surrounded him. Eventually, Jovanovic headed across to check the monitor, as England fans hummed in expectation and the Italians whistled nervously.

Kane stayed just outside the area, staying calm, waiting the decision and his moment with destiny. When Jovanovic signalled the penalty, Kane's teammates got busy, getting the ball, shielding Kane, allowing him to keep his composure and focus untroubled by opponents. Kane stayed away from all the trouble, spotted the ball, and then unerringly sent Donnarumma the wrong way.

Kane is a patriotic character, proud to lead his country, and this moment meant everything. As he ran away in celebration, the emotion was all across his face, and he jumped jubilant into the air as his name now leaps from the pages of the history books. Even the stadium announcer joined in the festivities. "A historic goal for England by Harry Kane". How fitting that it was a penalty after all the heartache of his missed kick in the quarter-final of the World Cup against France.

But 11 minutes into the second half, the Italians were back in it. Barella was caught near the halfway line by Maguire, but Jovanovic played an excellent advantage. Verratti eased the ball on to Lorenzo Pellegrini, who played a reverse pass to Retegui who was bustling down the inside-right channel. Jordan Pickford rushed out but Retegui's shot whistled past him.

Mancini sent on four substitutes but still Southgate had made only one change, Phil Foden for Jack Grealish, which was strange with Walker, Rice and Maguire all on a booking. Southgate was forced to act when Shaw collected two yellows for time-wasting, and then fouling Politano. Southgate immediately acted, sending Kieran Trippier on for poor Foden, who was only on for 12 minutes. As Italy threatened to break through again, Southgate replaced Saka with Reece James and reverted to a back five. Conor Gallagher then came on for Bellingham, but England were not to be denied their "revenge".

**Italy** (4-3-3) G Donnarumma 6 — G Di Lorenzo 5, R Toloi 6, F Acerbi 6, L Spinazzola 7 — N Barella 6 (B Cristante 62min, 6), Jorginho 6 (S Tonali 69, 7), M Verratti 6 (G Scammacca 88) — D Berardi 6 (M Politano 62, 7), M Retegui 7, L Pellegrini 6 (W Gnoto 69, 6). **Booked** Jorginho, Acerbi.
**England** (4-3-3) J Pickford 6 — K Walker 6, J Stones 6, H Maguire 5, L Shaw 5 — J Bellingham 7 (C Gallagher 85), K Phillips 6, D Rice 8 — B Saka 7 (R James 85), H Kane 7, J Grealish 6 (P Foden 69, 6) (K Trippier 81). **Booked** Rice, Grealish, Maguire, Walker, Shaw. **Sent off** Shaw.
**Referee** S Jovanovic (Serbia).

### How they stand in group C

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **England** | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | **3** |
| **N Macedonia** | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | **3** |
| **Ukraine** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| **Malta** | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | -1 | **0** |
| **Italy** | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | -1 | **0** |

**Fixtures** (7.45 unless stated): **Sunday** England v Ukraine (5.0); Malta v Italy. **June 16** Malta v England; North Macedonia v Ukraine. **June 19** England v North Macedonia; Ukraine v Malta. **Sep 9** Ukraine v England (5.0); North Macedonia v Italy. **Sep 12** Italy v Ukraine; Malta v North Macedonia. **Oct 14** Italy v Malta; Ukraine v North Macedonia (2.0). **Oct 17** England v Italy; Malta v Ukraine. **Nov 17** England v Malta; Italy v North Macedonia. **Nov 20** North Macedonia v England; Ukraine v Italy.

● *Top two teams qualify directly for the final tournament. The participants of the qualifying play-offs will be decided based on their performance in the Uefa Nations League*



Kane converts from the spot — his 18th penalty for his country — before Shaw is sent off after two quick bookings, inset

## 'I knew Harry would break my record . . .'

**Wayne Rooney** writes exclusively about the man who has succeeded him as England's record scorer



**At thetimes.co.uk and in tomorrow's Times**

# fitting way to make history

DANIELA PORCELLI/SPP/SHUTTERSTOCK



## His record-breaking effort broken down

### England's leading marksmen

| Player | Goals |
|---|---|
| Harry Kane | 54 |
| Wayne Rooney | 53 |
| Bobby Charlton | 49 |
| Gary Lineker | 48 |
| Jimmy Greaves | 44 |
| Michael Owen | 40 |
| Tom Finney | 30 |
| Nat Lofthouse | 30 |
| Alan Shearer | 30 |

### Goals by competition

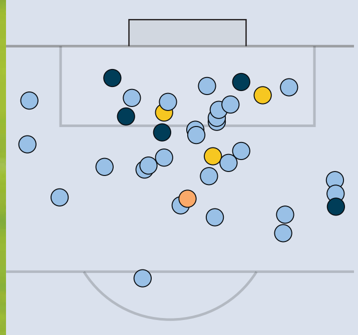
Harry Kane has scored more goals in World Cup qualifiers than in any other competition

| Competition | Goals |
|---|---|
| World Cup qualifier | 17 |
| European Championship qualifier | 16 |
| World Cup finals | 8 |
| Friendly | 6 |
| European Championship finals | 4 |
| Nations League | 3 |

Source: englandstats.com

### Where he got them from

The positions on the field from which Kane struck




Source: Opta

### Who has assisted Kane?

Raheem Sterling has set up Kane the most out of any England player

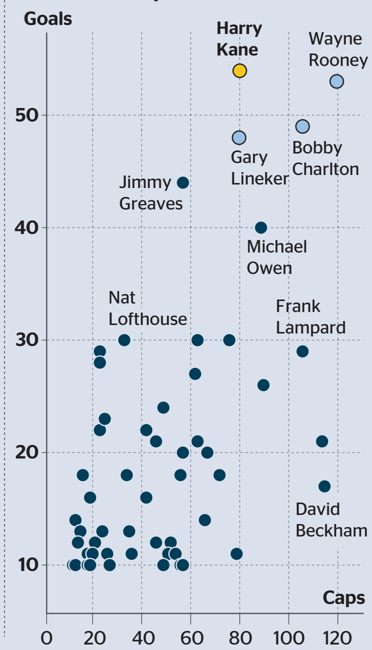
| Player | Assists |
|---|---|
| Raheem Sterling | 7 |
| Luke Shaw | 3 |
| Ben Chilwell, Dele Alli, Kyle Walker, Phil Foden | 2 |
| Ryan Bertrand, Jack Grealish, Jordan Henderson, Ruben Loftus- Cheek, Harry Maguire, Marcus Rashford, Jonjo Shelvey, Emile Smith Rowe | 1 |

### Poacher's instinct

Most of Kane's goals are struck first time

| Type | Goals |
|---|---|
| First time | 23 |
| Penalty | 18 |
| Two touches | 6 |
| Three touches | 5 |
| Four or more touches | 1 |
| Volley | 1 |

### How he compares




# 'We are one of Europe's best teams'

CONTINUED FROM BACK

this dream become a reality. It means everything. I was so excited to put the England shirt back on and get back out here, start the campaign for the Euros next year and it had to be a penalty, of course.

"Once it hit the back of the net, [I felt] just huge emotion — huge thanks to all the players, the staff, the fans, my wife, my family back home, everybody who's helped me get to this stage. It's a magical moment.

"The World Cup was a difficult way to end, it was tough to finish in that way but we spoke this week about getting back to it. We feel like we're one of the best teams in Europe and we just have to keep knocking on the door.

"My England journey started with Roy [Hodgson] but Gareth has been a huge part since 2016 and we've had some really good times. I feel like we've really grown as a team. We haven't quite achieved what we want to achieve yet but tonight was a big statement."

Southgate — now the third England manager to win 50 games — praised Kane's mental strength. The striker will get a presentation before Sunday's game against Ukraine at Wembley.

"To break the record in the manner he did given the recent history was a real indication of his strength of character and mentality," Southgate said.

"The players gave him a brilliant reception afterwards and I think that was both in response to the record and what he's had to recover from as well."

Southgate said his team could use the win as a reference for grinding out a result. Declan Rice opened the scoring but Mateo Retegui, Italy's Argentinian-born debutant, struck in a second half where Luke Shaw was sent off for two bookings within 54 seconds.

"We should have had the game buried. We should have been 3-0 up at half-time," Southgate said. "In the end, they can reference something. They had to grind and dig in away from home which is hugely important and given our record here, it is a massive result."

# Rice comes of age as true leader of England midfield

West Ham captain ready to solve one of the national team's recurring issues, writes **Jonathan Northcroft**

Even after full-time, he was all-action, centre-of-everything. At the whistle, he was the England player who sank to his knees and pumped both fists, yelling in joy — the immediate symbol of this victory.

As the players began leaving the pitch he lingered to savour things, and Gianluigi Donnarumma sought him out, offering a big hug and a few words of congratulation. He celebrated with Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, and then Gareth Southgate, and then loud and long with the fans.

Everyone wanted a photo with him: first Phil Foden and Kyle Walker, then a bare-chested Jude Bellingham.

It will be remembered for Harry Kane breaking the national goalscoring record but Kane was not the only England player for whom this felt a landmark evening. For Declan Rice, this was a coming of age, the night when he emerged as a true leader of Southgate's team, in the fire and fury of an away match in Italy, where the reputations of other England midfielders have been forged.

In 1997, it was Paul Ince and David Batty, withstanding an Italian onslaught in Rome to provide the foundation for a famous draw that took England to a World Cup. Here, in an albeit less-significant qualifier, but still extremely testing circumstances, Rice stood tall, underpinning and securing England in the area where they so often lose the biggest matches — midfield.

The middle was the undoing of Southgate's England against Croatia at the 2018 World Cup, and arguably at the 2022 tournament where, despite big improvements in attacking and pressing, they were outplayed by Antoine Griezmann and Aurélien Tchouaméni in crucial phases of the quarter-final defeat by France.

Against Italy, the English middle has a particular history. For those present at a Euro 2012 exit in Kyiv, the near-disdainful ease with which Andrea Pirlo gave Steven Gerrard and Scott Parker the runaround, is seared on the memory. And then, of course, there was the Euro 2020 final, when England's hand on the trophy was prised away, finger by finger and pass by pass, by the metronomes in the Azzuri's midfield.

For Italians, football is about strategy, detail, combat and control. In English playing traditions, only the third of those looms large, and in midfield this has led to the production of warriors and athletes but not so many passers and tacticians. In the Premier League the leading playmakers and pivots are nearly all foreign: Rodri, Casemiro, Thomas Partey, Martin Odegaard, Ilkay Gundogan, Bruno Guimarães, Thiago Alcântara, Kevin De Bruyne. Southgate has spoken about this dearth and urged English academies to do more to produce such players. He loves Rice — and rarity is one reason why.

Before the match, the West Ham United captain spoke about criticism from Graeme Souness, who has argued that world-class midfielders must excel in three areas — defending, creating and scoring — and that Rice is top class only in the first category. Rice said there is more to his game, and that Souness would know this if he watched West Ham more.

Here, it was the West Ham Rice: dominant, spiky, classy and a scorer. Up against exactly the same Italy midfield from the Euros final, of Jorginho, Marco Verratti and Nicolò Barella, he did considerably better than that night.

Sitting as a single pivot, with Jude Bellingham and Kalvin Phillips playing in front of him, Rice was judicious in his positioning, conscientious in his covering and simple but effective in his use of the ball. Head always up, chest always out, he has the natural bearing of a leader and, at 24, after a good World Cup, is now beginning to impose it regularly in a national shirt.

England had only two in midfield in the Euro 2020 final. Last night Southgate saw the benefit of a switch to a 4-3-3, especially given the additional player is the mercurial Bellingham, 19. With the Dortmund youngster taking the game to Italy in the first half and Rice covering so well, Phillips — who has played only 56 minutes of Premier League football this season — had the leeway he needed to play himself in to the game.

Rice's goal was an emphatic finish. His club manager, David Moyes, has said that, in shooting drills at West Ham, he "has a kick like a horse" and he smashed England into the lead.

Bellingham and Phillips found it more difficult after half-time, when the momentum swung after Mateo Retegui's goal and swung further with Luke Shaw's late red card. But Rice kept his composure, kept making interventions and kept position well to see England through. A landmark night, not only for England's captain but West Ham's.



Rice is beginning to do for England what he does for West Ham

# Sport

## Take the £5bn and run

It is high time United's hated owners sold up and departed

Matt Dickinson, page 65



EDDIE KEOGH/THE FA/GETTY IMAGES



Kane celebrates his penalty, his 54th goal for England, which gave his side a 2-0 lead in Naples

# England's ultimate goalscorer

Kane passes Rooney with 54th goal as ten-man England hang on for vital win

| | |
|---|---|
| Italy | 1 |
| England | 2 |

**Tom Roddy** Naples

Harry Kane said that his dream had become a reality last night after he became England's all-time leading goalscorer while helping his side make a "big statement" with a win in Italy to start their Euro 2024 qualifying campaign.

Kane converted a first-half penalty at the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona to surpass Wayne Rooney with his 54th international goal that helped secure the first England victory in Italy since 1961.

The England captain Kane, 29, reached the landmark in 81 appearances for his country and it was his first cap since missing a penalty against France in Qatar in December that led to England being eliminated from the World Cup in the quarter-finals.

"A really special night for me, one I will never forget," Kane said. "Overall, just really proud. Thank you to everyone that has made

Continued on page 69

# Transgender athletes ban

**Martyn Ziegler** Chief Sports Reporter

World Athletics has banned transgender women from taking part in the female category at international events from next week.

Lord Coe, the president of World Athletics, said that the international governing body had taken "decisive action to protect the female category in our sport".

Coe also announced that Russian and Belarusian track and field athletes and officials would remain banned from international competitions, including the Paris Olympics next year, in defiance of the heavy pressure from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for them to be allowed to take part as neutrals.

The decision on transgender women was unexpected — the federation's initial proposal was to cut the maximum

Continued on page 63

# Watson eyes France move

**Will Kelleher, John Westerby**

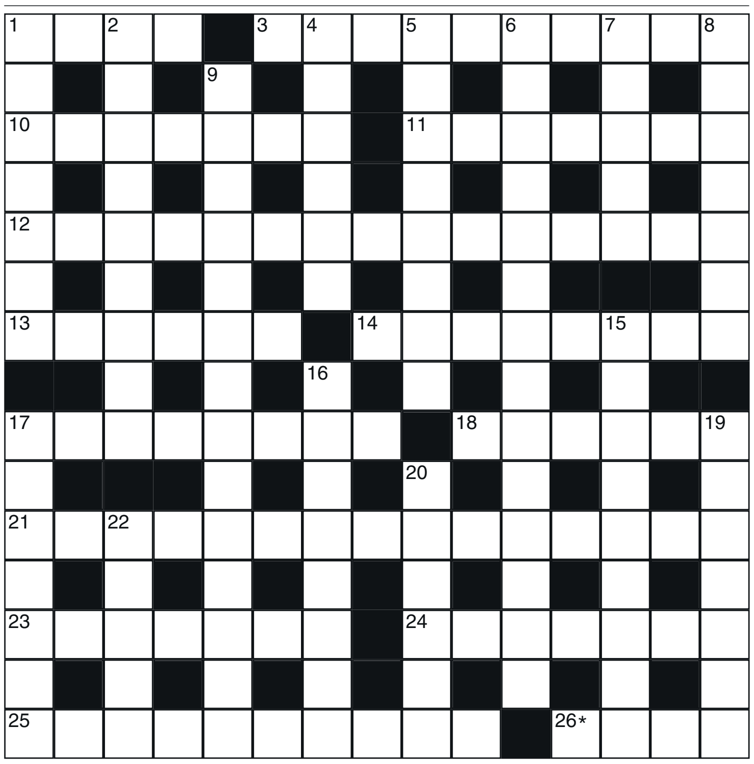
Anthony Watson is the latest England international considering a move to France this summer. The Leicester Tigers wing is set to visit the Top 14 side Castres in the coming days, as he assesses his options for next season. He could also take up an offer in Japan.

The 29-year-old signed a short-term contract with Leicester last year, taking a large pay cut to move from Bath. With his deal due to run out in June, he is now sounding out possibilities, and is due to have a tour of the Castres training ground soon.

It would represent a huge blow to Steve Borthwick, the England head coach, as it would render Watson ineligible for national team selection. A swathe of England players are set to move to France next season, but

Continued on page 62

## Times Crossword 28,559



**ACROSS**

1 Scotland not getting its own back in Balkan country (4)
3 Bear east of port, coming across a storm (10)
10 Begrudges housing costs around London area (7)
11 Tornado converted into Hummer? (7)
12 *Two Soups*, claiming small screen broadcast: critique extremely glowing (15)
13 Creativity encapsulated by senior European intellectual (6)
14 Playing well, Arsenal's wingers relaxed (8)
17 Bloomer from bloke on bike perhaps confusing whereabouts of A&E (8)
18 Two men in *Casualty* (6)
21 Open venue in New York, finishing with WC Fields? (8,7)
23 Car was leaking endlessly, in condition to be picked up (7)
24 Glibly repeat, left-winger expelled (4,3)
25 Dali perhaps not unknown among county celebs (10)
26 I'm found in transient employment (4)

**DOWN**

1 Fitting a rugby player of exceptional size (7)
2 See rib chops I demolished (9)
4 Result of lob? (6)
5 Gents perhaps need whipping, and this one needs tying up! (5,3)
6 Mustang, don't peg out now, do you hear? This'll help you breathe! (14)
7 Hear name attached to limerick writer (5)
8 Blasted meatloaf finally going brown (7)
9 Cold such as nothing comes close to (14)
15 Underground no-good creature of myth that will move in time (9)
16 Have good intentions from humble origin? (4,4)
17 Back on board, wearing headphones and loose items of clothing (7)
19 MPs set for reshuffle to accommodate ego trip? (7)
20 Speck, among foremost of Europe's smoked hams (6)
22 Lower organ, heading off vibration (5)

**Yesterday's solution 28,558**



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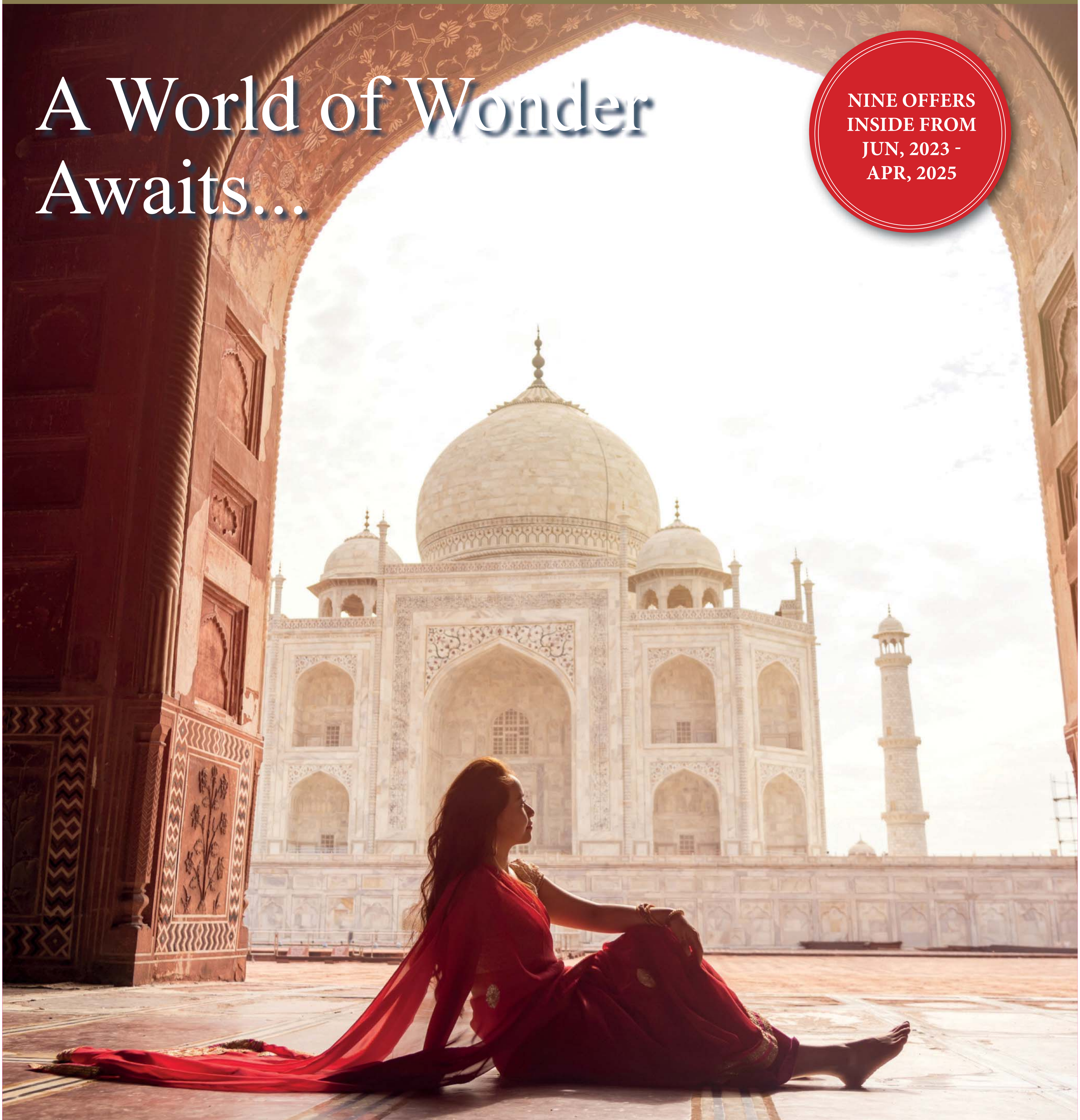
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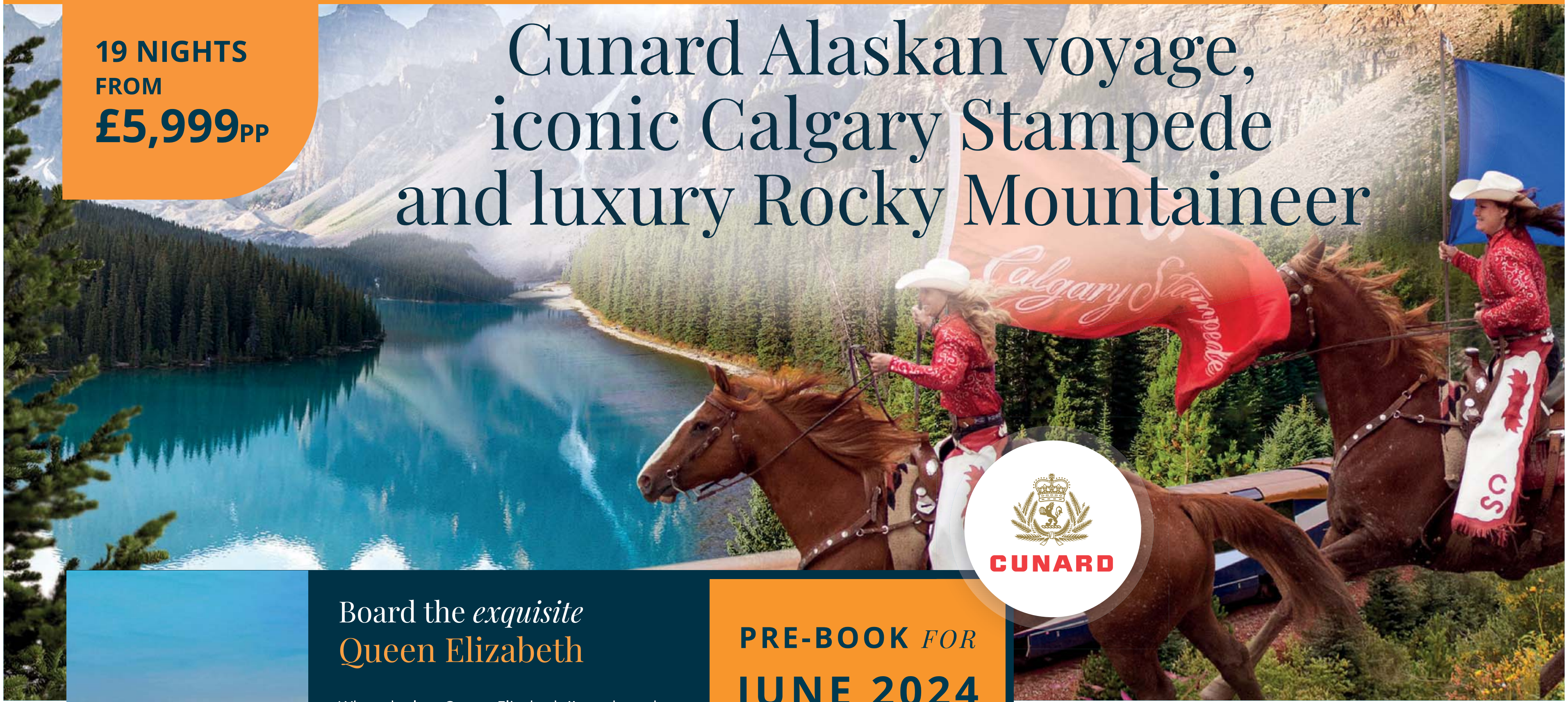
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Finally, you'll conclude your holiday with an overnight hotel stay in Vancouver before your flight home beckons.




## *Rail journey on board* Rocky Mountaineer

One of the world's most extraordinary train journeys, Rocky Mountaineer delves deep into some of Canada's most awe-inspiring landscapes. On a journey through the iconic Canadian Rockies, watch in awe as emerald forests unfurl and hem in icy blue rivers that snake through dramatic gorges. As your train glides over bridges, around mountains and through tunnels, settle in to enjoy particular highlights such as Fraser River and Hell's Gate.

## 19 Nights
## Departing June 30, 2024

### This *amazing* holiday includes:

**Full-Board Cruise**
Ten-night full-board cruise on board Queen Elizabeth
**Visiting:** Vancouver, Ketchikan, Juneau, Tracy Arm Fjord (scenic cruising), Skagway, Glacier Bay (scenic cruising), Sitka, Victoria, Vancouver

**Fully Escorted Tours**
Two-day ticket to the Calgary Stampede
Banff National Park tour including a visit to Lake Louise
Banff Gondola ride up Sulphur Mountain

**Rail Journey**
Two-day luxury Rocky Mountaineer rail journey from Banff to Vancouver
Optional upgrade to GoldLeaf service

**Hotel Stays**
Three-night four-star stay at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver or similar
Three-night four-star hotel stay at The Westin Calgary or similar
Two-night hotel stay in Banff at the Canalta Lodge or similar
One-night four-star hotel stay in Kamloops

**All Flights and Transfers**
(London departure - regional flights available)

| | |
|---|---|
| INSIDE *from* £5,999PP | OCEANVIEW *from* £6,299PP |
| BALCONY *from* £6,799PP | GRILL SUITE *from* £8,999PP |

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**30 NIGHTS FROM £4,699PP**

# Bali Escape, Celebrity voyage, India's Golden Triangle and the Himalayas



## Board the Celebrity Millennium®

Delightful design, with clever use of natural light throughout public areas, enhances the calm and open ambience of the Celebrity Millennium®. This cruise ship oozes sophistication and offers passengers a refined and elegant experience with only the best modern facilities. You'll also find plenty of tranquil areas to rest, revitalize, and enjoy some 'me time'.

**SAVE UP TO £2,000 PER COUPLE***

**COMPLIMENTARY FIVE-NIGHT ALL-INCLUSIVE HOTEL STAY IN BALI**

### Savour a five-star all-inclusive beachfront escape in vibrant Bali, paired with a luxury southeast Asia voyage and a 12-night fully escorted tour of India's iconic Golden Triangle.

Drink in the tropical paradise of Bali during a five-night stay at the Nusa Dua Hotel & Spa. Here, you'll savour world-class amenities, sweeping ocean views, delicious cuisine, and tranquil spa treatments. Savour views of turquoise waters and tropical forests, making this a truly idyllic start to your phenomenal holiday.

Next, you'll join the award-winning Celebrity Millennium® as she voyages to bustling Singapore. You'll relish all this ship has to offer, from sophisticated amenities, exciting on-board activities, a revitalising spa, and fine dining experiences. Discover exotic cultures and landscapes, indulging in local cuisine and golden landmarks in Kuala Lumpur, overnights in port in Penang – famous for its Monkey Beach – and Phuket, an island hugged by golden beaches and coconut palms.

In Singapore, you'll disembark for an overnight hotel stay before flying to Delhi to begin your Golden Triangle tour. Over the course of this twelve-night tour, you'll experience the eclectic city of Delhi, and embark on an eye-opening tour of Old Delhi. You'll also call at the 'Pink City', Jaipur – where vibrant terracotta-coloured architecture surround the city streets – before visiting Agra, where you'll behold India's iconic landmark: the magnificent, marble Taj Mahal. You'll also encounter the charms of Shimla and the surrounding Himalayas, and relish a thrilling safari stay at Ranthambore National Park.



### *Explore India's Golden Triangle*

An exhilarating blend of sights, sounds, and smells, few places in the world awaken the senses quite like India's Golden Triangle. Experience India's rich culture as you delve into the history of grand forts, marvel at the splendour of opulent palaces, and immerse yourself in the bustle of colourful markets and bazaars. This fascinating tour highlights unforgettable sights, from the serenely beautiful Amber Fort to the magnificent Taj Mahal.

**30 Nights**
**Departing January 21, 2025**

### This *amazing* holiday includes:

**All-Inclusive Cruise**
11 night all-inclusive cruise on board Celebrity Millennium®
**Visiting:** Bali, Lombok, Calukan Bawang, Kuala Lumpur, Penang (overnight in port), Phuket (overnight in port), Singapore, Delhi, Shimla, Delhi, Jaipur, Ranthambore National Park, Agra, Delhi
Complimentary Classic Drinks Package, Wi-Fi and Tips

**Rail Journeys**
Shatabdi Express, Himalayan Queen Toy Train & Kota JanShatabdi Express

**Hotel Stays**
Complimentary five-night five-star all-inclusive stay in Bali
Four-star hotel stay in Singapore
Five-star hotel stays in Delhi, Shimla, Jaipur, Ranthambore & Agra

**Fully Escorted Tours**
Tours of India's Golden Triangle, the Himalayas, Shimla & game drives through Ranthambore National Park^

**All Flights and Transfers**
(London departure - regional flights available)

| | |
|---|---|
| INSIDE *from* £4,699PP | OCEAN VIEW *from* £5,199PP |
| VERANDA *from* £5,699PP | CONCIERGE CLASS *from* £6,699PP |
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**19 NIGHTS**
**FROM**
**£6,999PP**

# No-fly Cunard Queen Anne voyage, Italian Lakes and all-inclusive Venice Simplon-Orient-Express

CUNARD



## The Queen Anne Experience

On board Queen Anne, Cunard's newly designed much-loved signature spaces from across the fleet return, and she also introduces new experiences across dining, culture, and entertainment. Feel inspired by the blend of old and new. Together with a team of world-renowned designers, Cunard have created a ship designed with distinction and reimagined the voyage experience.

**LAST 10 CABINS REMAINING**

**COMPLIMENTARY OCEANVIEW TO BALCONY UPGRADE**

### Be one of the first to step on board Cunard's brand-new Queen Anne, before delving into the wonders of the Italian Lakes and savouring a timeless journey on board the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express.

Your wonderful holiday begins in Southampton, embark the cherished Cunard fleet's newest vessel: Queen Anne, as she sails to Civitavecchia, Rome. With redesigned much-loved signature spaces and new experiences for dining, culture and entertainment - you'll be enamoured by the exquisite blend of old and new.

You'll first sail to charming Vigo before reaching Barcelona, one of the brightest jewels of the Mediterranean. Disembarking in Civitavecchia, you'll then transfer to Renaissance Florence for a two-night hotel stay surrounded by idyllic vineyards and enveloped by architecture that spans hundreds of years.

Stretching across northern Italy, the Italian Lakes are a collection of paradisical bodies of water nestled amongst jagged mountains, vast stretches of verdurous countryside and quaint towns. Savour fine dining, waterfront walks and leisurely strolls through picturesque towns and vineyards with three-night respective hotel stays in Lake Maggiore, Lake Como and Lake Garda. You'll also delight in an astounding Bernina Express rail journey to St. Moritz, drinking in incredible views of majestic mountains and glacial lakes during your Lake Como hotel stay.

Your Italian Lakes escape complete, you'll then bid farewell to Italy as you board the iconic Venice Simplon-Orient-Express in Verona as she glides to Paris in timelessly elegant surroundings, making for one of the world's most celebrated train journeys. Finally, you'll join the Eurostar in Paris, returning you to London.



### *All-inclusive* luxury rail journey on board* Venice Simplon-Orient-Express

As you step on board the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, you'll be greeted with sparkling wine and afternoon tea; the ideal beginning to a timeless journey. **You could upgrade your rail journey and enjoy a brand-new Suite.** Each with double or twin bed options, a private marble en-suite bathroom and a convertible lounge area, you're guaranteed a luxury stay.

VENICE SIMPLON-ORIENT-EXPRESS
A BELMOND TRAIN
EUROPE

**19 Nights**
**Departing June 7, 2024**

This *amazing* holiday includes:

**Full-Board Cruise**
Seven-night full-board cruise on board the brand-new Queen Anne
**Visiting:** Southampton, Vigo, Barcelona, Civitavecchia

**Rail Journeys**
Scenic rail journey through the Swiss Alps on board the Bernina Express
Two-day all-inclusive* luxury Venice Simplon-Orient-Express train journey from Verona to Paris:
- Dedicated steward service
- Three-course lunch, four-course dinner and continental breakfast
- Enjoy views of the snow-peaked Swiss Alps during your journey

Standard Premier Eurostar rail journey from Paris to London

**Hotel Stays**
Two-night four-star hotel stay at the Hilton Florence Metropole or similar
Three-night four-star stay in Lake Maggiore at the Zacchera Hotel Collection or similar
Three-night four-star stay at the Sheraton Lake Como Hotel or similar
Three-night four-star stay in Lake Garda at the Hotel Savoy Palace or similar
All hotel stays include breakfast

**All Transfers**

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| | |
|---|---|
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| BALCONY *from* £7,999PP | GRILL SUITE *from* Sold Out |

Prices are per person based on two adults sharing a cruise cabin or suite. Hero image is for illustrative purposes only. *Some Premium brand drinks may be excluded.

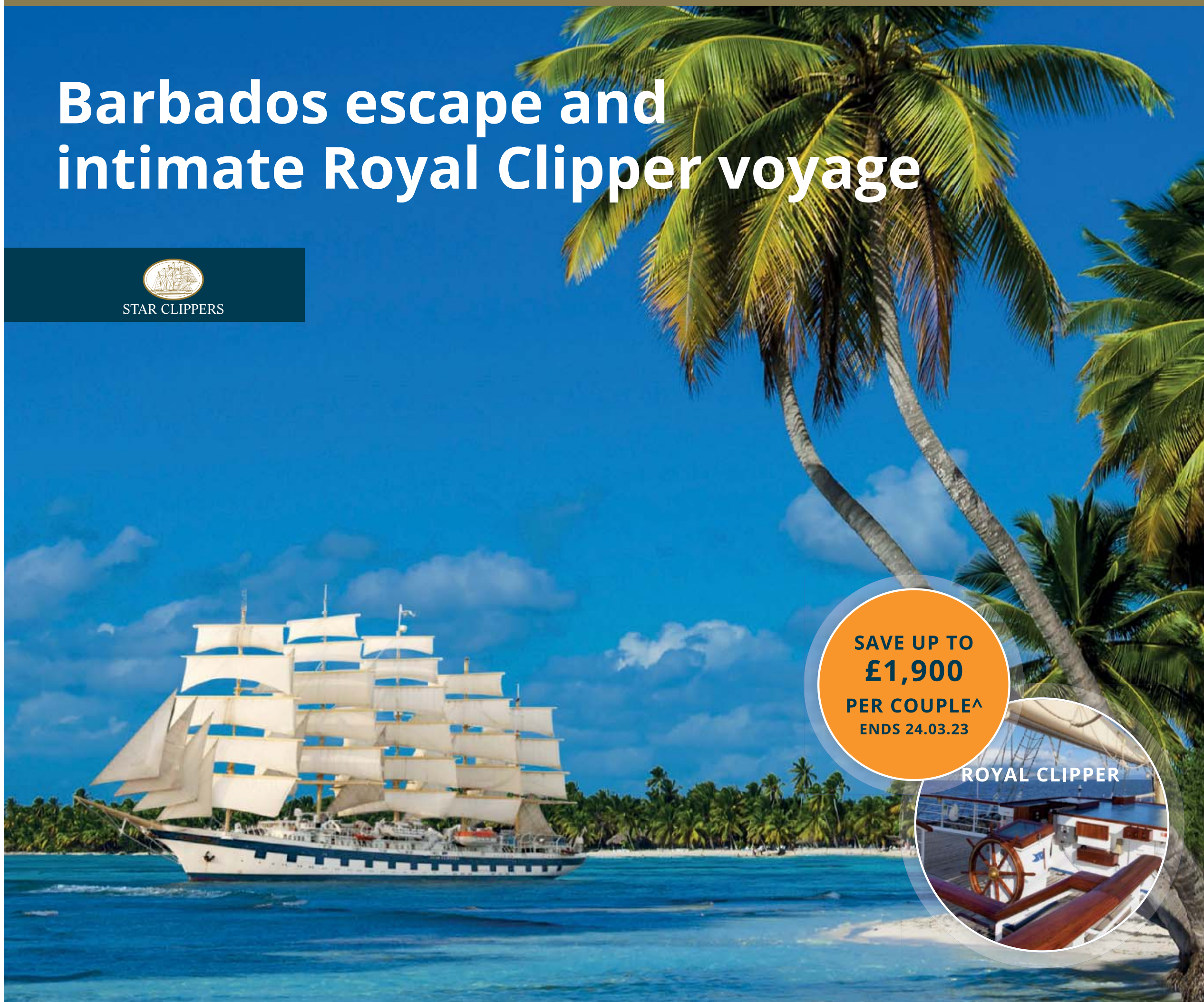
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# Barbados escape and intimate Royal Clipper voyage




**14 Nights from £2,699PP***
**Departing Dec, 2023 - Mar, 2024**

**This amazing holiday includes:**

**Full-Board Cruise**
Seven-night full-board cruise on board Royal Clipper
- Enjoy a traditional sail-powered seafaring experience
- Relish a relaxed ambience with an easy-going dress code
- Intimate atmosphere with a capacity for just 227 passengers

**Visiting***: Barbados, Captain's Best (Grenadines), St. George's (Grenada), Tobago Cays (Grenadines), Kingstown (St. Vincent), Admiralty Bay (Bequia), Fort-de-France (Martinique), St. Lucia, Barbados

**Hotel Stay**
Seven-night four-star hotel stay in Barbados at the Sugar Cane Club Hotel And Spa

**All flights and transfers**
(London departure - regional flights available)

PRICES FROM*

| INSIDE | OUTSIDE | SUITE | SOLO PASSENGER |
|---|---|---|---|
| £2,699pp | £3,399pp | £5,299pp | £4,399 |

Prices are per person based on two adults sharing a cruise cabin or suite and include flights from London (regional flights available at a supplement). *Prices and itinerary based on December 9, 2023 departure. ^Prices include discount and savings based on two passengers sharing an Outside (Cat 6) cabin departing 9 March 2024.

ONLINE CRUISE CODE: AME7539

# Wonders of Southeast Asia cruise and Singapore Grand Prix™




**Eight nights from £2,199PP**
**Departing Sept 11, 2023**

**Your amazing holiday includes:**

**Experience**
Grandstand Tickets to the Singapore Grand Prix™ including:
- Saturday, September 16, 2023 (Qualifying)
- Sunday, September 17, 2023 (Race)

**Full-Board Cruise**
Four-night full-board cruise on board Spectrum of the Seas®

**Complimentary Ocean View to Balcony upgrade**

**Visiting:** Singapore, Penang, Phuket, Singapore

**Hotel Stay**
Four-night four-star hotel stay in Singapore with breakfast

**All Flights & Transfers***
(London departure - regional flights available)

**EXCLUSIVE TO IMAGINE CRUISING**

PRICES FROM

| INTERIOR | OCEAN VIEW | BALCONY | SUITE |
|---|---|---|---|
| £2,199pp | £2,599pp | £2,599pp | £2,799pp |

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**NINE NIGHTS FROM £1,699PP***

# All-inclusive Classic Danube River Cruise& Prague Discovery



aROSA
Cruising differently



## The A-ROSA DONNA Experience

Cruising the Danube and its breathtaking landscapes on board the intimate A-ROSA DONNA is truly an incredible experience, is one of luxury, comfort, and relaxation. Your home away from home stateroom is the perfect place to unwind after exploration days in port, and to look forward to the next fascinating destination you'll visit tomorrow.

**BOOK NOW *FOR* 2023**

**INCLUDES TWO-NIGHT HOTEL STAY IN PRAGUE**

## Embark on a stunning cruise along the Danube, discovering the wonders of Central Europe, paired with a charming stay in Prague.

The moment you arrive in picturesque Prague for your two-night hotel stay, you'll know you have arrived somewhere special. Famously known as 'the City of a Hundred Spires,' Prague oozes fairy tale architecture and charm, including its renowned Old Town Square which features the medieval astronomical clock that gives an animated hourly show. The clock showcases turquoise faces rimmed with gold and is a sight to behold here.

You'll then embark the stylish A-ROSA DONNA and meander the Danube River towards the quaint Bavarian market town of Engelhartszell. While you roam the town, founded in 1293, you can visit the best-preserved Roman building in Upper Austria, the 1,700-year-old Römerburgus Oberranna. Continuing your cruise you'll gaze at the towering natural beauty of Austria's landscapes before vibrant Vienna comes into view. With rambling baroque palaces, winding cobbled lanes, and elegant Kaffeehäuser, this is a city you won't want to leave.

That said, the splendour of Budapest's Trinity Square may well make up for it. It's also home to the 13th-century Roman Catholic Matthias Church, which boasts spectacular architecture, its white facades and roofs nearly piercing the sky. Krems an der Donau – a picturesque town rich in vineyards and fine wines – is your next port of call before your penultimate stop in the red-roofed city of Bratislava, surrounded by the Little Carpathian Mountains. Gaze at its iconic, vibrant, white-washed castle before you embark the A-Rosa Donna one last time, sailing back to Engelhartszell where you'll disembark, concluding your river cruise of the varied tapestry of Central Europe.



## *Discover* Vienna

Austria's cultural capital showcases grand imperial palaces and a treasure trove of museums filled with masterpieces. Rich in musical heritage, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert, Strauss, Brahms, and Mahler all found inspiration in Vienna, and music still plays an important role in this city's everyday life. Admire the scattering of lavish baroque mansions and the Renaissance Revival venue – Vienna State Opera – one of the world's leading opera houses.

**Nine Nights**
**Departing Jun - Aug, 2023**

## This *amazing* holiday includes:

### All-Inclusive River Cruise

Seven-night all-inclusive Danube River cruise on board A-Rosa Donna

- All meals, snacks, afternoon tea and BBQ on the sun deck
-All drinks, all day and evening*
-Complimentary Wi-Fi
-Complimentary room service
-Complimentary use of on board bikes at selected times
-Access to SPA-ROSA including sauna, fitness centre and massage
-15% off spa treatments
-On board activities, cooking demonstrations and entertainment
-Up to two nights of cultural entertainment - picture local musicians and traditional dancing
-Walking tour of Bratislava included followed by a highlight local culinary experience back on board
-All port taxes
-Services of the A-ROSA Destination Scout in Vienna

### Hotel Stay

Two-night four-star hotel stay at the Vienna House Diplomat Prague with breakfast
Optional upgrade available to the five-star Jalta boutique hotel or similar
**Visiting:** Prague, Engelhartszell, Vienna (overnight in port), Budapest (overnight in port), Bratislava, Krems an der Donau, Engelhartszell

### All flights & transfers

| OUTSIDE *from** | JULIET BALCONY *from** |
|---|---|
| £1,699PP | £2,299PP |

*Prices shown are based on 20 July 2023 departure date

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# All-inclusive Cambodia and Vietnam Mekong river cruise




**14 Nights from £2,999PP***
**Departing Sept 2023 - Apr, 2025**

## This amazing holiday includes:

### Luxury Hotel Stays
Three-night five-star hotel stay in Phan Thiet at the Anantara Mui Ne Resort
Two-night five-star stay in Ho Chi Minh City at the Grand Hotel Saigon
Two-night five-star hotel stay in Siem Reap at the Borei Angkor Resort & Spa
All hotel stays include breakfast

### All-Inclusive Cruise
Seven-night all-inclusive river cruise on board Mekong Navigator
**Visiting*:** Mỹ Tho, Cái Bè, Sa Đéc, Mỹ An Hưng, Long Khánh Island, Phnom Penh, Angkor Ban, Wat Hanchey, Siem Reap, Angkor Thom

### Fully Escorted Tours
Củ Chi Tunnels
Angkor Wat

### All Flights and Transfers
(London departure)

| PRICES *from* | SUPERIOR SUITE | VISTA SUITE | SIGNATURE SUITE | PRESTIGE SUITE | GRANDE SUITE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SEPT, 2023 | £2,999pp | Sold Out | £3,999pp | Sold Out | £5,299pp |
| JAN, 2024 | Sold Out | Sold Out | £4,499pp | £5,299pp | £5,699pp |
| OCT, 2024 | £3,599pp | £3,999pp | £4,499pp | £5,099pp | £5,799pp |
| NOV, 2024 | £3,499pp | £3,899pp | £4,399pp | £4,999pp | £5,799pp |
| JAN, 2025 | £3,699pp | £3,999pp | £4,399pp | £4,999pp | £5,399pp |
| FEB, 2025 | £3,799pp | £4,099pp | £4,499pp | £5,099pp | £5,499pp |
| MAR, 2025 | £3,799pp | £4,099pp | £4,499pp | £5,099pp | £5,499pp |
| APR, 2025 | £3,899pp | £4,199pp | £4,599pp | £5,199pp | £5,599pp |

*Price and itinerary based on September, 2023 departure. Holiday may operate in reverse direction for certain departures.

# Zambezi River cruise, game safaris, Victoria Falls & Cape Town stay




**12 Nights from £4,999PP^**
**Departing Jan - Mar, 2024**

## This amazing holiday includes:

### Full-Board Cruise
Two-night full-board luxury cruise on board Zambezi Queen
- Water-based game viewing and bird watching
- Cultural tour of a local village

### Fully Escorted Tours
Full day Cape Peninsula tour
Two game drives per day in Pilanesberg National Park
Walking tour of Victoria Falls

### Hotel Stays
Three-night four-star hotel stay in Cape Town at the Southern Sun the Cullinan with breakfast
Three-night five-star hotel stay in Pilanesberg National Park at the Ivory Tree Lodge with breakfast, lunch and dinner
Three-night five-star stay at The Victoria Falls Hotel with breakfast

### Your Holiday Includes:
Cape Town, Pilanesberg National Park, Victoria Falls, Livingstone

### All Flights and Transfers
(London departure - regional flights available)

PRICES FROM^

| STANDARD SUITE | MASTER SUITE |
|---|---|
| £4,999pp | Sold Out |

^Prices based February 3, 2024 departure.

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FRIDAY MARCH 24 2023
THE TIMES

# Bricks&Mortar



## Happy house

**KELLY HOPPEN'S 17 WAYS TO BRIGHTEN YOUR HOME — AND YOUR MOOD**

Pages 6-7

# Home of the week

Fall for a folly: this Devon farmhouse has its own Victorian tower. By Melissa York

When De Bradshaw started house-hunting 20 years ago her partner had one request: "As long as you find something different [from the norm]."

Bradshaw certainly found it. Bishops Tower is one of the most recognisable homes in East Devon. Set in nine acres of parkland surrounded by cypress trees, rhododendrons and hydrangeas, the grade II listed farmhouse in Offwell, on the edge of Honiton, comes with a distinctive Victorian tower.

The house is thought to have started life as a smallholding bought by a bullion company as somewhere to change horses while transporting precious metals from Falmouth to London. As the house's incumbents became wealthier they made additions. In 1843 the property came under the ownership of Reverend E Copleston, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, who built the water tower out of local stone rubble to provide employment in the area and so he could see his other diocese, Llandaff, across the Bristol Channel. "You can stand on top of the tower with binoculars and look down the valley," Bradshaw says. "I'm convinced you can see the sea."

The main house was expanded in the Georgian era, and the bays are thought to be Edwardian. In the 20th century it became a country house hotel, then it was bought by a local businesswoman.

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In 2003 the house was found by Bradshaw, who set about making it a comfortable family home in which to bring up their son and daughter. However in 2015, just when the pair thought their work was done, a fire broke out in the roof and ripped through the entire house. The interior of the house was completely gutted. Bradshaw and Upperdine rented locally in Beer while they restored and redecorated the house. The roof of the main house was completely replaced and any partial damage to the exterior was rebuilt, repaired or re-rendered, but the whole of the outside was redecorated.

Bradshaw, 72, and Upperdine, 56, took it as an opportunity to put their stamp on the interiors, using lime plaster finishes and fibrous plaster mouldings. And they wanted to future-proof it: there is an insulated roof, electric underfloor heating, new electrics and plumbing, a high-pressure water system and double-glazed bronze windows. The house is split into three zones so they can heat only the rooms they are using.

There are two barns — one is set up for stables, and there's a tractor in the other one. "I do have to tell you that our son has a bar in there to entertain his rugby friends," Bradshaw adds.

Now the children have flown the nest, it's time for the couple to move on. Since the house has been modernised inside, there's ample scope for the new owners to convert the barns, add to the landscaping, create a sustainable vegetable garden, fill up the stable and tack room, and keep chickens and geese.

*£1.6 million, humberts.com*





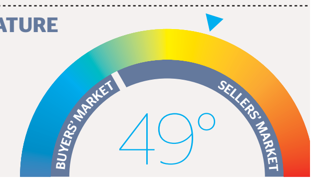

## EX14 The postcode in numbers

In this part of Devon, 49% of properties for sale are under offer, falling to 40% of those costing £1m or more.

21% Decreas in buye demand in the past yea

£338,652 is the average house price

TAKING THE TEMPERATURE
SELLERS' MARKET
The hotter the market, the quicker and easier it should be to sell a home




# What £650,000 buys you in …

Compiled by Victoria Brzezinski @vbrzezin

## London SW11

Scheduled for completion from 2025, One Clapham Junction is a new development a short walk from Clapham Junction station. This fifth-floor, 819 sq ft apartment includes an open-plan kitchen/dining/living area that opens on to the west-facing balcony and a utility room with a washing machine. There are two bedrooms, one of which has an en suite shower room, and another bathroom. Interiors have been designed by Atelier NM and residents will have access to a 24-hour concierge service, landscaped courtyard and garden area, and the Peloton Hub for classes including strength training and yoga.

**EPC** B (expected on completion) — on a scale of A (best) to G (worst)
**Upside** Brilliant transport connections.
**Downside** You'll have to wait to move in.
**Contact** savills.com




## Cumbria

Seedhill is a traditional Lakeland house tucked away in an Esk valley hamlet in the Lake District National Park. Look past the dated decor — the five-bedroom L-shaped property has almost 2,100 sq ft of space, including two reception rooms, a kitchen/diner with a Rangemaster cooker, separate utility room and larder, shower room and a small study (or a sixth bedroom). Along with the bedrooms there are two bathrooms and a store on the first floor. An enclosed paddock is across the lane, and off-road parking. The Bridge Inn — home of the World's Biggest Liar competition — and tearooms are within walking distance. Whitehaven is a half-hour drive away.

**EPC** F (potential B)
**Upside** Stunning scenery.
**Downside** The septic tank needs to be replaced.
**Contact** pfk.co.uk









# Moving stories

Your tales from up and down the property ladder

## 'I bought my first house aged 25 by investing in cryptocurrency'

In 2019 I moved to the UK from Malta, where I grew up. I did a master's degree in advanced computer science at the University of Sussex. I loved Brighton so after university I stayed and rented a one-bedroom flat there. But in August 2021 my landlord told me to leave the flat by August 2022. By then I was working full-time as a software engineer so I started looking to buy [says Mark Said Camilleri, 25].

However, I wasn't dedicating enough time to the property portals, or booking viewings. I was too busy with work. I was so new to all of this, I felt I needed an expert who would work with me rather than the seller. I needed motivation.

I read about the buying agent Henry Pryor in a newspaper article. His website has a list of agents in different areas. I sent emails to many of them. Some didn't respond. One said that they only work with budgets over £2 million and another said that with my budget (about £400,000) and their fees it wouldn't be cost-effective for me. But when Emma Fildes, a buying agent from Brick Weaver, replied I felt we clicked. She said my budget wasn't an issue.

She started looking for me last June. Brighton and Hove are lovely but they were too expensive. I still wanted to be near Brighton and within easy travelling distance of Portslade, where my partner lives, as well as an airport so I could quickly fly to Malta. I also wanted to be near London — I do hybrid working — and I wanted a three-bedroom house because I need a home office and my family often visits.



**Mark Said Camilleri bought in Burgess Hill, West Sussex, last year**

In July she found me a three-bedroom semi-detached house in Burgess Hill, West Sussex, which is about a 20-minute train journey to Brighton and just over an hour to London. The market was crazy. One house had multiple offers even before the viewings started. Another was snatched up by someone purchasing their seventh property — we were up against investors. This semi was on for £400,000. I had lost a similar one when I bid £425,000, so this time I put in an offer of £426,000 and it was accepted.

I had saved up a deposit of £46,000, mostly by investing in cryptocurrency. In 2018 I started working for a company that did blockchain. Once you're in the sector you have a better understanding of it. In April 2022 I cashed out of my investments so I could have my deposit ready. I wasn't following the crypto markets too closely but my friends told me I sold at the right time. Those currencies are now worth less than what I sold them for.

I didn't complete until December 2022 because the sale was probate and dragged on, but that worked out for me. The mini-budget from Liz Truss's government had something in my favour. The threshold for stamp duty for first-time buyers rose from £300,000 to £425,000. My house was just £1,000 above the threshold so I only had to pay £50. I will use the money I saved for renovations. I secured my mortgage in July: a two-year fix at 3.38 per cent. So I was lucky.

Emma's fee was 1.5 per cent of the purchase price — £6,390. You also pay a £2,000 retainer up front, which is deducted from the final buying fee. It was worth it. I wasn't raised in the UK and didn't know much about the market. She alleviated some of my anxiety.

**Interview by Hugh Graham**

View the UK's most luxurious residential properties
MANSION GLOBAL
mansionglobal.com/london

## Bedfordshire

This three-bedroom 19th-century semi-detached cottage in Eversholt is a hop away from the Green Man pub run by Candice Brown, the 2016 winner of *The Great British Bake Off*. The characterful 1,257 sq ft property overlooks a cricket pitch and is within easy reach of the Duke of Bedford's Woburn Estate. The front door opens into the beamed sitting room, which has an open brick fireplace and leads to a large L-shaped living/dining room. The traditional pine kitchen includes a separate utility area and a rear porch. The three bedrooms share a single first-floor bathroom. The village has a lido and tennis courts, while the delights of Milton Keynes are a 30-minute drive away.

**EPC** E (C)

**Upside** Gigaclear broadband is available.

**Downside** Questionable kitchen flooring.

**Contact** jackson-stops.co.uk



£650,000

## South Africa

Snap up a splendid home (and a self-contained cottage) in Hyde Park — an affluent suburb north of Johannesburg. The property features shuttered wooden windows, a hallway with black-and-white Spanish marble tiles, and includes a sitting room with double French doors out to a secret garden with a fountain. The veranda is the perfect spot for alfresco dining, and there's also a study and granite-topped kitchen with a Morso fireplace and views over a courtyard garden. Luxe additions include a wine cellar and tasting room, a shower room beside the pool, four garages, a second kitchen and a laundry room. There are two en suite staff rooms.

**Upside** The fish pond under a pin oak tree is pretty special.

**Downside** 9,472 sq ft of living space is rather a lot to manage.

**Contact** fineandcountry.co.za



£640,000

# House swap

## Builders desperate for sales are offering lucrative part-exchange deals. But should you take them? By David Byers

Housebuilders eager to boost their sales in a slow market are offering to buy potential buyers' homes on a part-exchange basis, often for more than sellers would get on the open market.

The number of housebuilders offering part-exchange deals leapt 10 per cent in a year from 150 in 2021 to 165 in 2022, while the number of individual developments offering them increased from 444 to 507 — a 14 per cent rise. And the trend keeps growing. In January and February 72 housebuilders were offering part exchange compared with 55 in the same two months last year, on 207 individual building projects compared with 136 the year before.

Most of the big developers allow buyers to part exchange — including Persimmon, Cala, Bovis and Linden, Barratt and David Wilson, which have specialist teams that work on part-exchange transactions. Cala says it has done part-exchange deals on 15 per cent of its sales so far this year, compared with 8 per cent in 2022. Persimmon made part-exchange deals on 25 per cent of its sales in the first eight weeks of the year compared with 6 per cent in 2021.

> "The rising number of deals reflects the weakness in the new-build and second-hand markets

So should you consider a part-exchange deal? Here's what you need to know.

### Housebuilders are desperate to sell

Housebuilders are offering to buy homes to stimulate sales because their businesses have been hit by a double whammy. On the one hand the property market has slowed because of the rise in mortgage rates, meaning those who might have considered moving are sitting on their hands. Interest rates have risen from an average of 2.65 per cent for a two-year fixed-rate deal and 2.88 per cent for a five-year one on March 1 last year to 5.32 per cent and 5 per cent at the start of this month.

First-time buyer numbers for new-builds have been particularly badly hit because of the closure on October 31 to new applicants of the Help to Buy equity loan scheme, under which the government loaned new-build buyers 5 per cent to 20 per cent of the cost of their property. The scheme helped to push hundreds of thousands of cash-poor buyers on to the property ladder, but was criticised for inflating prices and being a cash cow for developers.

"The rising number of part-exchange deals reflects the weakness in both the new-build and second-hand markets," says Neal Hudson, a property market analyst. "Part exchange is not something that developers would be keen on doing if they could avoid it."



**Hanna Stacey part-exchanged her home in Windsor for a three-bedroom house in Chertsey, Surrey**

After the chancellor Jeremy Hunt's budget announcement last week the Office for Budget Responsibility highlighted the decline in property sales — a trend, it said, that would ultimately lead to a 10 per cent fall in property prices between the end of last year and the third quarter of 2024. It said there were 1.26 million transactions last year, but that the number of sales was projected to fall to 1.09 million this year and 1.03 million in 2024.

The scale of the problem facing housebuilders was laid bare in the full-year results released at the start of this month by Persimmon, a FTSE 100 group and one of the country's biggest builders. It warned that this year it was likely to end up constructing far fewer houses than it did last year — between 8,000 and 9,000, down from 15,000.

In an attempt to encourage business it launched a special offer for its new-build buyers from Boxing Day to the end of February that allowed them to spend the first ten months in their home mortgage-free or be offered 105 per cent of the value of their old home on part exchange. In its annual report it said it had turbocharged sales and increased the number of part-exchange deals by more than 300 per cent compared with the same period two years ago.

### Part-exchange offers certainty

If you're selling your home and want to buy a new-build the main benefit of part exchange is that it speeds up the sales process in a slow market, taking buyers out of tortuous, stressful chains. Hamptons estate agency estimates that the timescale is 50 to 75 per cent

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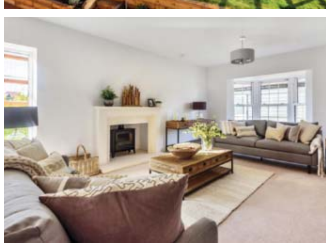
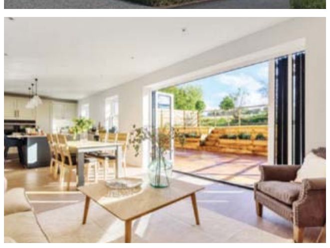
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HEADBOURNE WORTHY

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# On the edge

## Five years after losing their clifftop home to erosion, this couple hasn't received a penny from their insurer. David Byers reports

As Frances Bolton, 61, and her husband, Malcolm Debbage, 65, drove away from their beloved Norfolk clifftop house for the last time, with a demolition team moving in, they struggled to find the emergency accommodation the local council had allocated to them.

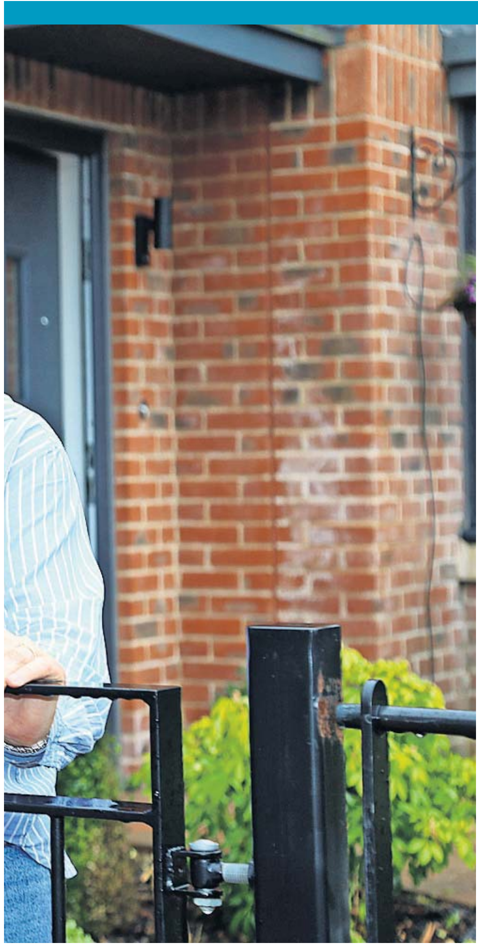
"I was driving all over the place trying to find this chalet," Bolton says. "I pulled over and burst into tears. We were in shock."

Bolton and Debbage's £110,000 house, near the village of Hemsby, was demolished in 2018 after a series of freak storms accelerated coastal erosion on the cliffs by about 60 years, leaving it on the brink of falling into the sea.



The couple's heartbreak was repeated for other residents this month after a storms made three more homes by the Hemsby cliffs unstable and forced their demolition, as well as endangering others nearby. The owner of another one-bedroom bungalow there, Lance Martin, 65, has decided to drag his property back with his own tractor after erosion left it one metre from the cliff edge.

Bolton and Debbage, who are booksellers, were left with almost nothing after their house was destroyed. They were moved to council accommodation in nearby Caister-on-Sea, but have recently been transferred to another local authority. Five years later,



shorter for part-exchange deals.

It was the certainty of a sale that attracted Hanna and Garry Stacey, both 35, to such a deal. They sold their three-bedroom Victorian home in Windsor, Berkshire, to Cala for £430,000, accepting an offer of 4 per cent less than their £450,000 asking price. Cala Homes says it based its offer on analysis of local prices, including a valuation by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. From a financial point of view they might have done better. After all, the price was reduced by £20,000 — more than the £6,000 they'd probably have had to pay for an estate agent to sell their home on the open market. However, Hanna, a programme manager, and Garry, an electrician, were given £1,000 compensation for legal fees and did not pay survey fees.

"Not only did we find the home we wanted, but Cala's part-exchange service took all the stress away. We moved into our new home as soon as it was ready and were able to stay in our old home in the meantime. We then simply swapped keys," Hanna says. The couple paid £653,000, a £2,000 discount, for a three-bedroom home in the St Peter's Quarter development in Chertsey, Surrey, which they bought in December 2021. They have a two-year-old son, James, and are happy in their home.

Cala says its part-exchange business is rapidly growing after shrinking during the pandemic, when the demand for properties was so high it didn't need to offer it. It says its process is "transparent", with buyers getting two independent valuations of their property and Cala offering "up to 100 per cent of the market value".

Alison Deakin, sales and marketing director at the company's Thames division, says: "Along with savings on estate agent fees or a home report, some of the main benefits of part exchange for our customers include having a guaranteed cash buyer for their home, avoiding an unpredictable chain, being able to match up their move-out and move-in dates seamlessly, and the speed with which a part-exchange transaction can progress. All of these aspects can add real value during a move."

### At 105 per cent, the price is right

Experts say an increasing number of developers desperate for a sale are likely to follow Persimmon's example and launch promotions in which they offer over the odds to persuade buyers. David Fell, a senior analyst at Hamptons, says that a developer offering 105 per cent could have a healthy knock-on effect for a buyer at a time of more-expensive mortgages by increasing their deposit for their new property. "It lowers the size of their loan, which means they may be able to qualify for a slightly cheaper mortgage rate," he says.

A spokesman for Vistry Group, which runs the Bovis and Linden housing brands, says 4 per cent of its homes are sold through part-exchange deals. Barratt Developments, which owns David Wilson, says such deals accounted for 3 per cent of its sales last year.

JOE GIDDENS/PA ; STEPHEN POND



**Above: Houses left hanging over the cliff in Hemsby, Norfolk. Left: Malcolm Debbage and Frances Bolton**

they live in a housing association flat in Stoke Newington, east London. They have not received a penny for their house from their buildings insurance company, Halifax, after it stated the damage had been caused by erosion, for which they were not covered. The couple said they were entitled to claim because it was not the erosion but a series of freak storms that had rendered their house unstable. Halifax's decision has been upheld by the Financial Ombudsman Service.

Bolton and Debbage had bought the three-bedroom house only a year before the demolition, for £80,000.

"We had always wanted to live in a beachfront property," Bolton says. "We would never have bought it if the insurance had refused to insure it, but Halifax agreed to do so."

"Because of the intransigence of the council and the rebuttals of the insurance companies, we have been left with nothing," Debbage says. They are taking legal action against the council in a bid to gain compensation for their loss.

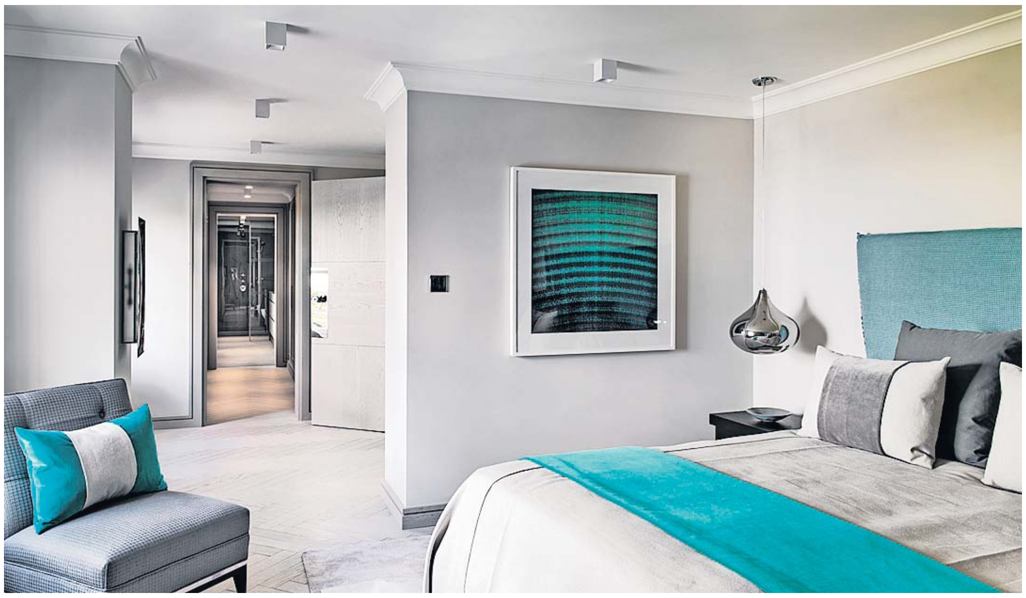
The danger facing Hemsby and other vulnerable coastal communities across the country has been growing in recent years as the increasing ferocity of storms accelerates coastal erosion. Parts of East Anglia are particularly at risk because the cliffs are made up of a combination of clay, silt and sand, making them susceptible to North Sea storm waves.

The government's National Coastal Erosion Risk Map shows that about 700 properties in England are vulnerable to coastal erosion by 2030 and about 2,000 could be at risk by 2060, including in Cornwall, Cumbria, Dorset, East Yorkshire, Essex, the Isle of Wight, Kent, Northumberland, Norfolk and Sussex.

Great Yarmouth borough council said it would not comment on Bolton and Debbage's case "because of ongoing legal proceedings", but stressed it was taking action to protect the coastline.

A Halifax Home Insurance spokeswoman said: "We understand the difficult position that Mr Debbage and Ms Bolton are in and sympathise with their situation. However, we thoroughly investigated this claim in 2018 and an independent expert confirmed that the damage to their house was due to coastal erosion and not a storm."







Hoppen, below, advises swapping out velvets for lighter fabrics in spring, and to include surprises such as painting cupboard interiors





# 17 ways to make your living space a happy place

From moving the sofa to painting the ceiling, Kelly Hoppen has tips for designing a home that makes you smile — not weep over the cost. She talks to Katrina Burroughs

COVER STORY

Kelly Hoppen has been up since 5.40am. Britain's best-known interior designer, from TV's *This Morning* and *Dragons' Den*, has sipped hot water and lemon, had a coffee, read the papers, chatted to John Gardiner — her partner for more than a decade — and put in a couple of hours' work before our Zoom call, on the topic of happiness, at 9am. She skipped her hour in the gym to fit me in.

Hoppen is, she explains, taking it relatively easy. "For the first time in my life I've decided, at the age of 63, I can't do everything. And I shouldn't do everything because I have an amazing team. I'm still very much putting the schemes together on all the projects but I'm delegating a lot. I'm managing my time the way I want to," she says. "I don't think I've ever felt that the company feels so happy. Happiness is key. And I think if you're not happy in your home then where can you be happy?"

The designers at her studio are working on a superyacht, a cruise ship and projects in Dubai, Hong Kong, Sydney, LA and Miami, as well as residences in London and the Cotswolds. Top of Hoppen's personal to-do list is finishing her new London home for the summer. In the meantime she and Gardiner are renting a small mews house, a modern property in pale plaster and concrete, with Crittall-style doors opening onto the garden. She says: "It's a tiny space but it's neutral and I knew I had the pieces I could put in it. It was an empty shell. Within six hours it looked like this." She pans her phone around the interior of the little kitchen-living room, which is calm, textural, warm and welcoming. "It made me happy. It made John happy." Today she wants to share the secrets to making any home into your happy place.

Hoppen has been talking about wellbeing on her Instagram account, @kellyhoppen, since the pandemic when she started offering shut-in design fans accessible ways to refresh their rooms. If that's not what you'd expect of the head of an international brand, note how proud she is of her QVC collections and the inexpensive wallpaper borders she has just launched with the paint brand Lick. She was never about schemes for the one per cent. Hoppen wants happiness for all.

She says: "For me family is everything. My grandson gives me more happiness than I could describe. I think he is the bee's knees. He is just adorable." Rudy is almost six years old and refers to Hoppen as Glammy; he is the son of the food writer Natasha Corrett, the designer's daughter.

Creating a welcoming backdrop for friends and family is a top priority. What does she think is the principal mistake to avoid? "Don't decorate to impress anyone else. Far too often people are thinking, is this the right thing? Is it in vogue? Home is not a lifestyle. Your home is the core. It's you. If you feel comfortable in your home everyone who comes into it will feel good too."

Here are Hoppen's 17 tips to make your living space your happy place:

**1** Take stock of what you've got. We are having a really difficult time in terms of the cost of living, so now more than ever people are looking around their homes saying: "What have we got and how do we make it work?"





Left: put flowers in a terracotta jug (£130, bettinaceramica.com). Above: plants spread a feeling of wellbeing

**2** Reshuffle accessories. Once we place a vase somewhere we don't move it for years; we're scared to move it. Take every accessory you've got in every room down, move them around and give them a new life.

**3** Shift the furniture. You don't have to move across the world to change the way you live. I was waiting for something to cook the other day and I thought, I could move that table to there and that would give me more space there. It's interesting how by shifting one or two pieces of furniture you change the flow of the room.

**4** Zoning is crucial. In my books I've always talked about understanding how a space works. At first people looked at me like I was mad. [Since Covid] we've all had to be in our homes and look inward, and think about how they work for us. We added places to work and study and craft, now we might be back in the office again. Does the layout work for the way you use the room now?

T

Times+ event

On May 25 join interiors editor Katrina Burroughs as she hears from the interior-design experts Michelle Ogundehin, Annie Sloan and Kelly Hoppen on what you can do to make your living space your happy place.

To enter the ballot in order to attend in person, or register to attend online, visit mytimesplus.co.uk



PAL HANSEN



Above: zoning is Hoppen's watchword — make sure a space works for how you use it now, and refresh lighting with freestanding downlights. Below: one of Hoppen's previous homes



**5** Family photos. We've all got a million photos. Get your photos out, lay them on the floor; you can always have some of them made bigger. Create a collage in an entrance hall or a family room. Go to Ikea and get some inexpensive frames. You might have some odd frames you can mix in if you want something more eclectic.

**6** Dress your home according to the seasons. If you have a lot of thick velvets and wools in your home, swap them for lighter fabrics in spring. Take cushion covers off and change them or swap velvet cushions for linen. That gives you an instant uplifting feeling of "ooh, spring is here".

**7** Lighten up. In spring take heavy curtains down and put up linens that you can clip on — or you can buy a ready-made curtain. It's about taking the layers away and letting in the light.

**8** Brighten up. One of the things that is key is lighting. You can spend a lot of money on changing your lighting [installing fixtures where the cabling needs to be embedded into the walls] or you can look at using [free-standing] uplighters to make rooms lighter and brighter. If you have a dark space you can bounce light off ceilings. You can hide uplighters behind furniture if you are not going to chase walls.

**9** Add flowers — whether they're dried or fresh — and plants. It's that feeling of having the outdoors inside that is so important to wellbeing.

**10** A lick of paint. It's an easy and inexpensive trick. If you are in a rental and not allowed to redecorate you can get an MDF panel and do some colour blocking. In my studio I have an old piece of MDF used on a shoot for QVC. I've ended up placing it on the wall and I love it.

**11** Snazz up the ceiling. If you are allowed to paint, paint the ceiling. Painting a ceiling a random colour or adding wallpaper on a ceiling is a good way to add some pizzazz to a room.

**12** Add a border. Borders were so in when I first started designing all those years ago. I've just launched a collection of borders with Lick. They are incredibly easy; you can place them high, low, anywhere you want on the wall. You can have the wall in a bright colour and the border in a neutral. Make it yours.

**13** Include the unexpected. I was asking in the studio for small details that made people happy and one of my stylists said, "Jugs instead of vases." It's about finding objects you'd use for something else and seeing them in a different context.

**14** Cupboard love. You can revitalise your kitchen by changing the fronts of your cupboards. There are companies that work with Ikea kitchens that do that; they are brilliant. Or you can paint the fronts and change the handles.

**15** TLC for tiles. You could regrout your tiles in another colour to give them a different look. Add a splash of blue or red or purple or black, or if you just want to refresh your grout because it gets so manky, you could just redo it white.

**16** Luxe for less. A lot of the marble yards have offcuts. Sometimes they give them to you for nothing. There's often a section where you can find pieces big enough for a splashback behind a sink or to make a bathroom shelf.

**17** A happy home is about planning, not shopping. Don't go out and buy things for the sake of it.

# Savvy spender

## Can't afford Scandi? Czech out the east for homeware

**Your weekly guide to living well for less**
Share your tips
**victoria.brzezinski@the-times.co.uk**

When shopping for second-hand furniture, the usual guidance is to buy what you love. This is sound advice. However, if you're on the hunt for a piece that will not only retain its value but, with any luck, turn a profit on resale, take notes from a few tastemakers in the world of antiques.

When I was kitting out my flat a few years ago I had my eyes on an original mid-century set of chairs and a dining table by Ercol, the British furniture manufacturer founded in 1920 by Lucian Ercolani. You'll spot the spindly-legged designs in chic living spaces across the UK, but in the 1980s and 1990s you couldn't give away Ercol.

It started gaining traction again in the early 2010s. Soaring demand means prime examples can fetch thousands. The same is true of Scandinavian design icons from the 1950s and 1960s. If you're after an original Hans Wegner, Arne Jacobsen or Finn Juhl, you may be required to take out a mid-century mortgage, but there was a time when you could have bought these items for a (relative) snip. So what should we be buying now to keep ahead of the curve?

> **Pieces by the German maker Thonet are highly desirable, but don't ignore the Czech producer Ton**

Look east, advises Paul Middlemiss, the founder of Merchant & Found, a 20th-century furniture and lighting shop in Hampshire. "There are some relative bargains to be had, [including] names that will soon be on par with the Bauhaus movement. Eastern European items were just as well made as the Danish designs, which are now mad prices.

"Many of the original Thonet factories produced extraordinary mid-century designs decades before many of the Danish superstars we know today. Pieces by Thonet are highly desirable, but don't ignore the Czech producer Ton. Ton was originally part of Thonet and is underrated and hugely desirable. If you want exceptional under-the-radar modernist furniture that you can leave to the kids, then now is the time."



The Czech industrial designer Jindrich Halabala's 1930s H269 chairs with bentwood beech arms are "classics of the future". Another name to know is Oswald Haerdtl, an Austrian designer born in 1899, whose chairs for the producer Ton are "still affordable and still relatively unknown".

The advice from Tessa Harris and Jakub Blackman, the co-founders of Shiny Things London — an antiques and vintage furniture emporium — is to invest in luxury modernist furniture designed between the 1930s and early 1960s from European designers whose work is likely to increase in value but doesn't "fluctuate madly with fashion".

Harris and Blackman also suggest Halabala's H269 chairs (they have a pair in their front room), and the designs of Jiri Jiroutek, known for his Czech company Interier Praha, as well as designs by my fellow Poles Karol Tichy and Teresa Kruszewska.

**Victoria Brzezinski**

# FINE & COUNTRY

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FEATURE **ROCHESTER, KENT**



## Stunning seven bedroom property



An imposing Grade II Listed residence in the heart of historic Rochester with seven bedrooms, four bathrooms and five reception rooms, occupying 6,600 sq. ft.

**The owner's favourite room**
"The front sitting room has this incredibly ornate plaster ceiling, which dates back to the 1680s, it also has a huge fireplace for a warm and cosy atmosphere."

Contact: 01732 222272
EPC Exempt | Council Tax: G | Tenure: Freehold
*guide price* £1,400,000 – £1,500,000



**SANDBANKS, POOLE** DORSET
Palatial beachfront superhome stretching across a double plot on Sandbanks beach, stunning landscaped grounds with infinity swimming pool.
EPC: B | Council Tax: H | Tenure: Freehold
**Contact: 01202 076297** £15,000,000



**LLANDINAM** POWYS
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**Contact: 01686 623123** £3,000,000



**COBHAM** SURREY
Enjoying a superb location in the highly sought-after Fairmile area of Cobham, is this outstanding five bedroom property.
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**Contact: 020 3940 5138** £2,695,000



**ACTON** LONDON
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EPC: D | Council Tax: G | Tenure: Freehold *guide price*
**Contact: 020 8567 6757** £2,400,000



**ROYDON** ESSEX
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**Contact: 01992 449500** £1,495,000



**BRANSTON BOOTHS** LINCOLNSHIRE
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EPC: C & G | Council Tax: G | Tenure: Freehold
**Contact: 01522 287008** £1,295,000



**BAWTRY** YORKSHIRE
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**Contact: 07822 010482** £1,000,000



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EPC Exempt | Council Tax: F | Tenure: Freehold *offers over*
**Contact: 01584 871922** £900,000



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A recently converted stunning four double bedroom barn presented to the highest of standards with a fabulous contemporary feel.
EPC: C | Council Tax: G | Tenure: Freehold *offers over*
**Contact: 01789 332600** £875,000



**BOWCOMBE** ISLE OF WIGHT
This impressive detached house surrounded by rolling countryside provides spacious accommodation throughout, double garage and ample parking.
EPC: F | Council Tax: F | Tenure: Freehold
**Contact: 01983 520000** £875,000




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THE TIMES

2 ARTS

March 24 | 2023



# ‘We’d have no Hamlet without Hamnet’

**Maggie O’Farrell on how her bestselling novel about Shakespeare’s son has been adapted for the stage**



# Caitlin Moran's Celebrity Watch



## 6 The 'bland bag'

Good morning, sweet Times reader, and welcome to the week where the international banking system started to perform what we might technically refer to as "a gigantic wibble", as the failures of Silicon Valley Bank and Credit Suisse caused — to use another technical term — "an economic nervo" and prompted fears of — to use a final technical term — "a forthcoming gigantic and total enf***enment".

With 90 per cent of the world's population predicted to be living in a cardboard box and engaging in desperate hand-to-hand street combat over the last rat carcass by 2024, the big question is: just how awkward will it be to be rich come the end of the year? It's gonna be, you know, tricky to still have money when everyone else is in a modern-day Hooverville. I'm not saying everyone who owns eg a coat with all its buttons still intact will be at risk of being kidnapped and eaten, but if you're living off capital, maybe lay off the fake tan for a bit. You don't want to make it easy for the starving to imagine what you'd look like if you were marinaded then deliciously flame-grilled.

And, ever alert to existential threats to its customer base, the world of high-end fashion has registered these dangers and accordingly made adjustments. For this is the week we learnt of 2023's new fashion-and-survival necessity — the "bland bag" — via a headline on MailOnline: "Is Meghan's favourite accessory the new 'it bag'? Stylist reveals why 'bland' designs are increasingly in demand."

Reading on, we learnt that super-wealthy fashionistas are increasingly requesting "bland" accessories to avoid suspicion, and scrutiny, from glowering peasants. Some are even requesting vintage designer items that are "less pristine", presumably so that, if push comes to shove, they can claim they found their Balmain bag "in a skip, honest!" and avoid being hoisted onto a rotisserie. Meghan Markle has adopted "understated" and very dull leather Carolina Herrera tote bags, along with fellow super-rich celebrity Gigi Hadid. The visual message? "Eat the bitches with the visible Chanel logos first! They're probably wearing high heels too — easier to catch!"

As the months go by, if the financial situation worsens, it will be instructive to see just how "bland" and "don't eat me" fashion gets for the super-rich. And if it gets to the point where you see a Kardashian with a Lidl bag for life? Time to head to the woods and dig up your survival cache.

## 5 Brits

**"Brits sound clever to Americans, right?" ran the headline in The Times, revealing a fascinating insight: a study has found Americans believe Britons to be more clever than them thanks to our habit of replying "right" in conversations, rather than the Americans' favoured response of "OK".**

**"The researchers found that Americans used the word 'right' to confirm that they knew what someone was talking about. Britons used it when information was relevant, interesting or new to them. Thus, Americans got the impression the Britons they were talking to already knew everything they discussed, even when the Britons were clueless."**

**Right? Or, rather, OK? In the example given, an American referred to as GA told an anecdote to which a Briton replied: "Right." "Wait," GA said. "You knew this already?" The Briton, confused, replied they did not. And so the study into the global uses of "right" began.**

**I have to say, this study bears out something I learnt myself a few years ago. One of my sisters replies "right?!?" to anything she is told, and I simply copied the trope as it's so incredibly useful. Not only does it indeed make it sound like you already knew what was being discussed but it's also the most low-maintenance way to continue a conversation you can't really be arsed with.**

**"Right?!?" says, "I am up to speed on all of this, dude — you may carry on talking about the thing I have no real purchase or investment in while I look over your shoulder to see if there's anyone I'd rather talk to." "Right!?!" works with plumbers explaining how your previous plumber was awful; conspiracy theorists wanging on about Covid; children telling you that their teacher is stupid; and spouses ranting about unusable parking apps that ruined a trip to Leicester. "Right?!?" you say brightly, applying the most time-efficient, one-syllable shot of affirmation possible while quietly working out what genuinely interesting thing you're going to say when they finally shut up.**

**It only goes wrong when — at the end of your fascinating, philosophical info-dump — they reply "right!?!" too.**





## 4 Kourtney Kardashian

Back to the Kardashians: one of them had another wedding! In many ways it's pointless to say which one, or which particular wedding it was: there are so many Kardashians, and they have so many weddings, that to keep tabs on them is a full-time job. It's certainly their full-time job: gotta do something to fill all those hours of reality TV!

Anyway, after emitting a few deep sighs, I found out which Kardashian had married: it was Kourtney, the eldest Kardashian sister, and she was revealing "previously unseen" snaps of last year's Portofino wedding to the "rocker" Travis Barker. She was letting her fans in on some of the planning: specifically, the wedding dress, which she designed herself. Inspired by the outfit in the *November Rain* video, she sketched a low-cut, white, corseted satin minidress with lace detail. "I got chills!" she recalled. And no wonder! The frock looks super-nippy. "I got breezes right up my la-la and a distinct headwind on my bongos!" would have been an equally pertinent reaction.

## 3 Madonna

**On Instagram this week Madonna shared the five "family rules" she has imposed on her six children: "Smile", "Be happy", "Listen to others", "Speak kindness" and "Be happy with what you have".**

**All laudable. However, as someone who comes from a family of eight children, and who has an insight into the astonishingly complex challenges of being in a big family, I'm worried that these instructions are a little … vague? When you're dealing with something that's a cross between a small family business and a zoo, you need far more specific instructions, like: "Any agreements to 'borrow' tights must be witnessed and documented by a third party", "No stealing sausages from a sibling's plate while shouting, 'You were eating too slowly!' ", "The reading of another sibling's diaries and writing comments like 'You fancy Simon Groom' in the margins is banned", and "It is forbidden to wait until a sibling is on the loo, turn off the bathroom light and make 'ghost noises' through the keyhole".**

**If Madonna wants MoranCorp's full list of "Firm rules for an inadvisably large family", it can be faxed over for the usual fee of $777,777 — a bagatelle compared with the therapist fees a more lawless family zoo will incur.**

## 2 Putin



The international community's relationship with the already heavily sanctioned Russian president,Vladimir Putin, took an even sourer turn this week, with the Ukrainian official Anton Gerashchenko going in on Putin's double chin.

"What's up with your chin, Putin?" Gerashchenko tweeted cattily, accompanied by a picture of Putin looking in the bloated, neck-based badlands between "wattle" and "goitre".

This wasn't merely a piece of *Mean Girls*-style international bitchery. No: Gerashchenko was referencing the Ukrainian military intelligence claims that Putin is currently using three doppelgängers who have had surgery to resemble him more closely, and whom Putin is deploying for public appearances, possibly to cover up his own failing health. Gerashchenko posted the picture next to another one of Putin from just last month — where that "Putin" did, indeed, appear to have a much more streamlined jaw.

"I wonder which one of them was real?" Gerashchenko wrote, suggesting the "Putin" that had been recently snapped in the Russian-occupied Ukrainian city of Mariupol, boldly driving himself around "without a motorcade of guards, and going out 'to the people' in a frontline occupied city", was "a fake".

"The president was at that time many hundreds of kilometres away,

warm and completely safe." Putin, with his "pathological cowardice", was not "risking his precious life", Gerashchenko concluded.

Of course both Gerashchenko and Ukrainian military intelligence may well be right: it seems kind of smart for an old, ill dude in the middle of a catastrophic war to rustle up a couple of lookie-likies to do a bit of the "strong war leader" heavy lifting. I mean, if even Julia Roberts used a "leg double" on the posters for *Pretty Woman*, then a president using a president double in a war seems pretty, well, sensible.

But if this "fake Putins" theory is simply based on the belief that no one can develop a massive, wobbly double chin in just four weeks, I'm afraid to say: they're wrong. Has no one in Ukrainian military intelligence ever had "a good Christmas"? If you have the right cheeses and try hard enough, it's perfectly possible to develop an extra chin between 11am and 4pm.

# 1

## Boris Johnson



The tell is the hair. It's always the hair. You know when Boris Johnson thinks he's in real trouble: he'll appear in public still ham-faced but with the blond haystack penitently shorn — Spamson, if you will — and refrains from all "boyish rumpling" in favour of the Serious Boris Face.

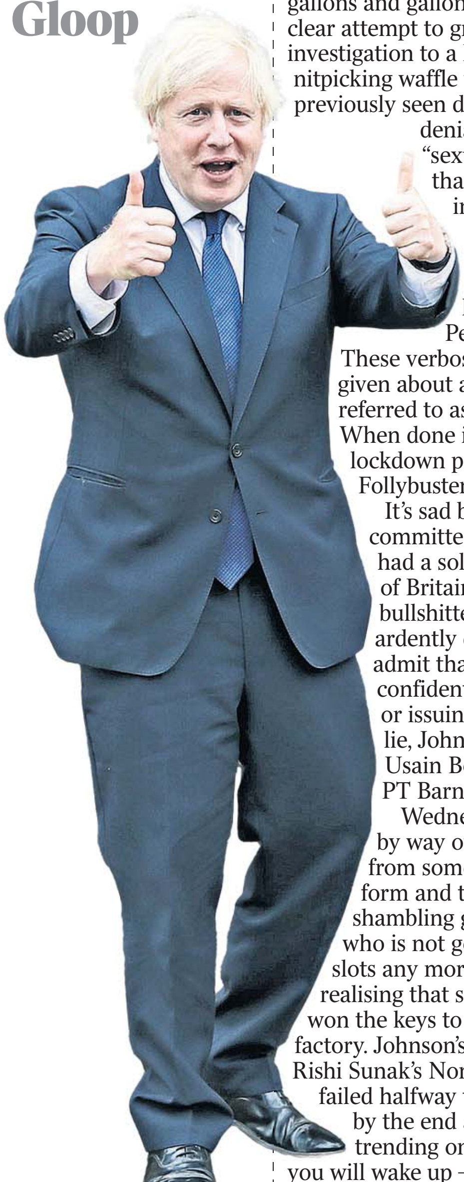
The Serious Boris Face is clearly intended to be something halfway between Paddington's "hard stare" and Churchill at his most resolute, but in reality is simply childlike rage. Like that of Augustus Gloop, incandescent that Willy Wonka has imposed some boundaries and won't let him drink from the delicious chocolate river. Why does Gloop think he can drink from Wonka's delicious chocolate river? Because he's a special boy. Why should Boris avoid all this questioning? Because he's a special boy. But now Willy Wonka — or, in this case, Harriet Harman — and all the tiny Oompa Loompas (the rest of the parliamentary privileges committee) are being simply outrageous in trying to hold him to account. At times Johnson's wrath at this questioning of his activities was molten.

"People who think we were partying in lockdown simply don't know what they are talking about!" Johnson snapped just after the committee talked about a picture of him in a room filled with people and booze, at an event referred to as "a party", and just before they talked about another picture of Johnson in a room filled with people and booze, at an event described by former head of comms Lee Cain as "a purely social function".

One of these events — "Essential for work!" as Johnson kept saying, "To motivate staff, in what had been a very difficult time!" — included Johnson's wife and his interior designer. Perhaps Lulu Lytle did need thanking for working through a very difficult time: it must be hard to pull together a series of fabulous living spaces on Johnson's infamously "chicken feed" salary, with two small children and an incontinent dog getting in the way.

Johnson didn't just have spoilt fury, of course — although a good 50 per cent of his answers could simply be translated to: "But it's ME! You can't question ME!" The other half of his performance was waffle. An extraordinary amount of waffle. His opening statement stretched to 20 minutes; individual answers took up six minutes or more.

> "In his childlike rage he was like Augustus Gloop



"It would be helpful if Sir Bernard could ask his question, and you could then give a succinct answer," Harman interjected at one point. Later on she had to say again: "You're giving very long answers and you're repeating yourself."

It was to no avail — Johnson continued to flood the area with gallons and gallons of wordage, in a clear attempt to grind the investigation to a halt. This tetchy, nitpicking waffle technique was previously seen during Bill Clinton's denials over having had "sexual relations with that woman" and, indeed, Boris Johnson's own "inverted pyramid of piffle" reply about his affair with Petronella Wyatt. These verbose replies, when given about adultery, could be referred to as "willybustering". When done in respect to lockdown partying? Follybustering.

It's sad because, before the committee hearing, Johnson had a solid reputation as one of Britain's leading bullshitters. Even those who ardently dislike him would admit that, when it comes to confidently denying, evading or issuing an outright classic lie, Johnson was seen as a Usain Bolt of mendacity, the PT Barnum of perfidy.

Wednesday's performance, by way of contrast, came from someone who'd lost their form and touch. A grim, shambling grind by someone who is not getting those headline slots any more and is gradually realising that somebody else has won the keys to the chocolate factory. Johnson's rebellion against Rishi Sunak's Northern Ireland deal failed halfway through the inquiry; by the end a T-shirt was trending on Twitter: "One day you will wake up — and Boris Johnson won't be there any more."

# The hot list
## Your guide to the weekend

### Film

**The Beasts**
A toxic true-life culture clash in the remote farming regions of Galicia, northern Spain, is the basis for this dark and unsettling thriller. The arthouse stalwart Denis Ménochet, *right*, plays the French teacher who moves to Spain with dreams of organic produce and sustainable living. The brutish, grizzled neighbours have other plans. It all goes horribly wrong. *See review, page 8. In cinemas and on Curzon Home Cinema*



### Pop

**Ed Sheeran**
The singer-songwriter who has sold more than 150 million records with little more than an acoustic guitar expands his one-man band into a stadium spectacular: *Shape of You*, *Sing* and other wedding favourites are guaranteed. *O2, SE10 (edsheeran.com), tonight, tomorrow*



### Classical

**The Dead City**
British performances of Erich Korngold's lush yet morbid 1920 opera are very thin on the ground and English National Opera's new staging by Annilese Miskimmon, *left*, is only the second in the UK after Covent Garden's 2009 production. Kirill Karabits conducts. *London Coliseum (eno.org), WC2, tomorrow*



### Theatre

**Farm Hall**
Why did the Nazis lose the race to build the atomic bomb? Katherine Moar's chamber play — based on transcripts of the secretly recorded conversations of interned German scientists — is an exemplary and beautifully acted mix of the political and the personal. *Jermyn Street Theatre, SW1 (jermynstreettheatre.co.uk), today, tomorrow*



### Comedy

**Jim Jefferies: Give 'Em What They Want**
Once a knowingly abrasive stage presence, especially during the decade he spent living in Britain, the Australian-in-America's recent Netflix specials have shown him finding a neat balance between the jagged and the shrewd, the vicious and the vulnerable. *O2 Apollo, Manchester, tonight; Brighton Centre, Sunday (jimjefferies.com)*



### Exhibition

**Ad Gefrin Anglo-Saxon Museum**
The 7th-century hall of the Anglo-Saxon King Edwin is resurrected through replica columns, thrones and CGI projections in this charming new museum and whisky distillery. Rediscovered through aerial photography in 1949, a treasure trove of jewellery, ceramics and weaponry are on show. *See review, page 14. Wooler, Northumberland (adgefrin.co.uk), tomorrow, Sunday*



cover story

# 'We owe him so much. Without

## As the stage adaptation of her novel Hamnet premieres in Stratford, Maggie O'Farrell talks to Alice Jones about her obsession with Shakespeare's son — and how loved he was

In a leafy corner of the graveyard of the Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon, there are two young rowan trees just coming into blossom. Still spindly, they were only planted a year ago in memory of twins Judith and Hamnet Shakespeare — born in 1585 to William Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway, who are buried inside the church. At the base of each is a small plaque, on which is engraved their names, dates and a quotation from one of their father's plays. For Judith, who lived until she was 77 years old, it is taken from the end of *Twelfth Night* when the twins Sebastian and Viola are reunited: "An apple cleft in two is not more twin/ Than these two creatures." For Hamnet, who died aged 11, it is Ophelia's mournful song from *Hamlet* Act IV: "He is dead and gone, lady,/ He is dead and gone;/ At his head a grass-green turf,/ At his heels a stone."

Tourists now seek out these twin saplings on their way into the church to see its most famous resident — and that is down to Maggie O'Farrell and her bestselling novel *Hamnet*, which tells the fictionalised story of the death of Shakespeare's only son from the plague in 1596. It was O'Farrell — with help from the director of Stratford Literary Festival, Annie Ashworth — who sought permission from the diocese of Coventry to plant the trees. When she visited Stratford to begin her research for the novel in 2017, she discovered that there was no known resting place for Judith and Hamnet. "I walked round and round the graveyard and I couldn't find him. William and Anne, and [their eldest child] Susanna and her husband, are all buried in front of the chancel of the Holy Trinity. Eventually I asked someone, 'Where's Hamnet's grave?' And they said, 'Oh no, there isn't one. He's here somewhere but we don't know where.' It seemed so sad and so emblematic of how history has treated him."

O'Farrell's novel, which won the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2020, places Shakespeare's son centre stage when he is usually no more than a footnote in the great writer's biography. It is itself a moving act of excavation and remembrance, so it is fitting that it has led to a permanent memorial in Hamnet's home town. O'Farrell travelled to Stratford for a small service in May last year, bringing rosemary from her garden in Edinburgh to lay on the ground. Hamnet's tree has red-gold berries, Judith's pinkish white. "So they are similar," O'Farrell says. "But not the same."

Now Hamnet is to live again, this time on the stage of Stratford's Swan Theatre in a theatre adaptation of *Hamnet*. And O'Farrell, who is sitting in a café near her home in Marchmont, drinking marigold tea and eating a sticky cardamom bun, is visibly overwhelmed by the afterlife of her creation.



"One of the reasons I wrote the book is because I always felt Hamnet, the boy, wasn't well known enough. He's been overlooked, he didn't even have a gravestone," she says. "So the idea that now he's going to be on stage in this town in which he was born, in which he lived and he died, I find that incredibly moving."

The play is a co-production between the Royal Shakespeare Company and Sam Mendes's Neal Street Productions. A West End transfer will follow in the autumn and a film adaptation with Hera Pictures is also in the works ("It's all a bit in flux but it's moving forward," O'Farrell says). Lolita Chakrabarti, who adapted *Life of Pi* for the stage, has written the script for the show, which will reopen the refurbished Swan.

"Maggie's book allows us to see the people behind the myth of Shakespeare. I really loved the personal nature of it, how everyday and universal and real it is," says Chakrabarti, who spent days wandering around Stratford before she put pen to paper. "There's nothing like being in the place to think, 'Oh, this was just a man.' The idea is to excavate the man who could have written these amazing plays — and to claim him back a bit."

Although O'Farrell has consulted on the scripts and attended rehearsals, she has no qualms about letting go of her novel. *Hamnet* was originally released in the first week of the first lockdown in March 2020, as the bookshops closed, and she had thought it would sink without trace. So when the RSC called, "I leapt out of my chair for joy", she says. "You don't say no to the RSC." On stage, Shakespeare will be played by Tom Varey, Hathaway by Madeleine Mantock and Hamnet by Ajani Cabey. Where the novel switches in time between the courting and marriage of William and Agnes and the urgent real-time progress of Hamnet's illness, the play will unfold chronologically over 18 years. "The RSC, not surprisingly, is quite interested in the story of his father," O'Farrell says wryly. "I'm very aware that it's going to sit alongside the book rather than be the same."

Encompassing a great love story and unthinkable heartbreak, *Hamnet* is an obvious candidate for adaptation. For O'Farrell, the surprise is that no one had told the story before her. "I would read biographies of Shakespeare and it was lucky if Hamnet got two mentions — that he was born and that he died. I've read very respectable scholars saying, 'It's impossible to know whether or not Shakespeare grieved when his son died.' How could you not grieve? That child was 11. Of course, child mortality was high; one in five children didn't survive infancy. But the idea that somehow it makes it less painful is ridiculous. I just refuse to believe that anywhere in the world at any time it's anything less than catastrophic to lose a child."

Then there's the fact that in Shakespeare's time the names Hamnet and Hamlet were entirely interchangeable. *Hamlet* opened four or five years after Hamnet's death. "Of course it's significant," O'Farrell says. "He was so important that his father wrote his best play as a result of his death. We owe him so much. We wouldn't have *Hamlet* without him. And we wouldn't have *Twelfth Night*."



**Above left: Maggie O'Farrell at home in Edinburgh. Above: Three children with dog by Sofonisba Anguissola — a 16th-century painting thought by some to represent Shakespeare's children, Susanna, Hamnet and Judith**

> **"I asked someone, 'Where's Hamnet's grave?' And they said, 'Oh no, there isn't one'**

O'Farrell had thought about writing *Hamnet* for as long as she has been a writer, perhaps longer. She studied the play for her Highers when she was 16 years old and it got under her skin. A couple of months ago a friend sent her a picture of a teenage O'Farrell dressed as the Prince of Denmark for a party, holding a skull she had "borrowed" from the school lab. In one lesson, her teacher, Mr Henderson, mentioned that Shakespeare had a son, called Hamnet, who died a few years before he wrote *Hamlet*. The information lodged in her brain like a splinter and wouldn't go away. She studied English at Cambridge, including a term on Shakespeare, and wrote her first novel, *After You'd Gone*, in 2001, while working on the books desk of The Independent on Sunday. Four more novels followed but Hamnet kept haunting her.

"I really wanted to write it for quite

# him we wouldn't have Hamlet'

COVER: JO HANLEY FOR THE TIMES. BELOW: BRIDGEMAN IMAGES; RUPERT BARNES; JO HANLEY FOR THE TIMES





**Above: Judi Dench as Anne Hathaway and Kenneth Branagh as William Shakespeare with Lydia Wilson and Kathryn Wilder as their daughters, Susanna and Judith, in All Is True. Below: O'Farrell, with the RSC actress Hannah Young, lays rosemary at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford in memory of Hamnet and Judith, his twin sister, last year**

a long time," she says. "I think I wrote three books instead of writing *Hamnet*. There was a sense of vertigo as well: I thought, who writes a book about Shakespeare? What a ridiculous thing to do. But it wouldn't lie down. It wouldn't be quiet." Recently she found an old notebook in which she had jotted down ideas and titles. In 2015 she'd scribbled: "Novel about Shakespeare's son and relationship to *Hamlet*." She laughs. "And at some point, I'd gone back and put square brackets around it, as if to say, 'That's an idea worth returning to.'"

Part of the problem was her family. She has three children with the writer William Sutcliffe — one son and two daughters, like Shakespeare — and one of the things stopping her was the thought that her son, like Hamnet, had not yet turned 12. So she waited until he was a teenager and, after publishing her memoir *I Am, I Am, I Am* in 2017, she went to Stratford on a research trip. "I remember saying to myself, you've either got to write this book or forget about it. You can't keep circling around it, thinking about it, buying yet more biographies of Shakespeare."

Once she started, she threw herself into research. She learnt falconry in the Scottish Borders and cultivated her own Elizabethan herb garden, then went on a course to learn how to make medicines from the plants — grinding up comfrey and hyssop, eyebright and witch hazel to make tinctures and poultices — all to get inside the head of the wild healer Shakespeare fell for. Anne Hathaway (O'Farrell uses Agnes as she was named in her father's will) has been treated terribly by history — or simply ignored, O'Farrell asserts. "Some people call her 'the wife-shaped void'. I don't know why people have been so hostile towards her, and are so loath for him to be happily married. It's misogynistic."

Shakespeare famously left her his "second-best bed" in his will but, as O'Farrell points out, that would have been the marriage bed (the best bed was reserved for guests). "And she was entitled automatically to a third of his estate and to stay in the house until she died. So the idea that she's this rejected wife thrown out on the pavement with an old bed is bollocks… All the money that he earned on the stage in London, which was vast, he sent it all back to Stratford. And when he retired from the stage, he went back to Stratford to live with her, which isn't what you do if you hate your wife and regret your marriage."

> **Hamnet is very like my son. It wasn't deliberate but it just crept in**

Having finally sat down to write *Hamnet*, the next challenge for O'Farrell was to write his demise. "I knew that I was going to have to put myself inside the head of a woman who sits at her son's bedside and watches him die. And I knew I'd be thinking of my own son, which inevitably I was," she says. "Hamnet is very like my son — in his daydreaminess. It wasn't deliberate but it just crept in. When he read it, my son said, 'It's me, isn't it?' I said, 'Only a version of you — you're still alive, thank goodness.'"

Writing the unbearably affecting scenes of his death, and the subsequent scenes in which Agnes lays Hamnet out for burial, were "brutal", she says. She kept putting it off and eventually wrote it in 15 to 20-minute bursts in her garden shed — "Not a nice Philip Pullman-type shed but a really disgusting, spidery shed. It's blown down now. I couldn't write it in my house where my children live," she says. When the deed was finally done, she recorded it in her diary: "I killed Hamnet today."

I wonder if writing *I Am* — a memoir about 17 brushes with death, from the time she was almost abducted by a murderer, to a botched caesarean and amoebic dysentery in China — emboldened her to finally tackle *Hamnet*. One of the chapters of the memoir is dedicated to the serious illness she battled in childhood. When she was eight years old she had viral encephalitis and was bedbound for months. One night she overheard a nurse telling another young patient, "Hush, there's a little girl dying in there."

In 2021 she had Covid and didn't recover for four or five months. At the time, she was finishing *The Marriage Portrait*, her latest novel, which is on the longlist for this year's Women's Prize. "I couldn't hold a pen and I was walking with sticks. I could just about type for about half an hour a day." As she struggled to rally, she knew that it was her childhood illness returning, Covid seeking out a former weakness in her brain. "I went to hospital and they said, 'You've had a stroke.' And I kept saying, 'I know that I haven't.' Forty years on, I knew straight away, I thought, 'It's back.'" She is fully recovered now but "there were days where I did think, 'Jesus, is this it now? Will I ever hold a pen again?' That was pretty frightening."

The final chapter of *I Am* is dedicated to her eldest daughter, who was born with an immunological disorder and suffers 12 to 15 extreme allergic reactions a year, one or two of which end with her being hospitalised. As we talk, O'Farrell has her phone next to her at all times in case a call comes in. The slightest contact could trigger an attack — pollinating nut trees, sitting by someone at school who had muesli for breakfast, if she touches the hand of someone who has eaten egg. "It's just something we have to learn to live with," she says.

In *I Am* she writes about the effect "of loving someone who could, at any moment, be snatched from you". In *Hamnet*, as Agnes nurses her dying son, the line is echoed. "What is given may be taken away at any time. Cruelty and devastation wait for you around corners, inside coffers, behind doors: they can leap out at you at any moment, like a thief or a brigand. The trick is never to let down your guard. Never think you are safe… Never for a moment forget they may be gone, snatched from you, in the blink of an eye, borne away from you like thistledown."

For O'Farrell, every book leaves its mark on the next. "In a sense, all the books you write are related to the predecessor. There's a Chinese box feeling to it. Maybe I did have to write *I Am* before I wrote *Hamnet*."

*Hamnet* ends with Agnes travelling to London to see her husband's new play, a "tragedie" that, to her initial disbelief and anger, bears the name of their dead son. By the end of it, she comes to understand that it is an act of remembrance, that art can make the dead live again; just as, thanks to O'Farrell, the daydreaming boy with hair like spun gold lives on. "I wanted to say to people this child was loved, this child was grieved," she says. "I want people to know his name."



***Hamnet*** **is at the Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, from April 1 to June 17, then at the Garrick Theatre, London, September 30 to January 6, 2024, rsc.org.uk**

# Richard Morrison the arts column

## How Kim Kardashian unwittingly exposed a museum's dubious morals

If ever a scandal was hiding in plain sight, it's the one revealed this week at the mighty Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. An entirely plausible report by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) suggests that the Met could be holding more than 1,100 antiquities linked to convicted or alleged traffickers and looters.

Fewer than half of those 1,100 objects, it's claimed, have records detailing what the art world calls "provenance" — an account of how they left their countries of origin and through what hands they passed. The implication is that America's biggest museum appears to be one of the world's largest repositories of stolen goods.

I say this scandal has been hiding in plain sight because one of the Met's most famous directors, Thomas Hoving — during whose tenure from 1967 to 1977 the museum went on a huge spending spree to "catch up" with older rivals such as the Louvre and the British Museum — admitted as much decades ago. "My collecting style was pure piracy," he declared, and he revelled in it. In his racy memoir (well worth reading on artnet.com) he delighted in reminiscing about using his "address book of smugglers and fixers" to purchase stuff for the Met, no questions asked.

He was a brilliant scholar but also a rogue — a combination encountered more often than you might think. He got away with it because that was an era when Americans felt they could, indeed should, behave like imperial powers have always behaved: as though licensed to pillage their way across the globe.

Yet it seems from this week's revelations that although Hoving died in 2009, his "ask no questions" attitude lived on. Many of the 1,100 items on the ICIJ's list were acquired comparatively recently.

One example was exposed by a sequence of hilariously random events five years ago. The biggest night in Manhattan's social calendar is the Met Gala, held on the first Monday of May each year, when the world's most fashionable celebs gather at the museum to flaunt their frocks. In 2018 Kim Kardashian turned up in a figure-hugging gold chainmail Versace effort. Whether it was the frock's embroidered crosses or its wearer's decolletage that best fitted with the gala's theme ("Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination") was hard to say. Either way, photographers flocked to snap Kardashian next to the only object in the museum that glinted as much as she did: a 2,000-year-old gold Egyptian coffin, acquired by the Met the previous year for nearly $4 million.

KHALED DESOUKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



The 2,000-year-old gold coffin of Nedjemankh on display in Cairo after its repatriation from America in 2019

When photographs of these two heavenly bodies — Kardashian and coffin — went round the world, it made one man very angry. He was the Jordanian smuggler who had stolen the coffin in the first place, unceremoniously tipping the body of the high priest it contained into the Nile. The smuggler complained to what he thought was a fellow reprobate that he had not been paid for his skulduggery.

> **The Met could be holding more than 1,100 antiquities linked to looters**

In fact the fellow reprobate was an informant for Manhattan's district attorney's office. And so the whole deal was exposed. The coffin had not been exported from Egypt in 1971, as its forged export licence had claimed. It had been illegally excavated in 2011, then smuggled through Dubai and Germany to France, where the Met had bought it from a Paris dealer. When the Met was confronted by the district attorney, it claimed that it had "unwittingly participated" in this illegal trade and agreed to return the coffin to Egypt.

An unfortunate one-off? Not if the ICIJ's revelations are to be believed. They suggest that, wherever Kardashian chooses to pose at future Met Galas, it's quite possible she will be snapped alongside an object with just as dubious a provenance as that coffin. The US authorities seized no fewer than 29 allegedly looted objects from the Met last year alone.

Watching the integrity of the world's most pompous collection of curators crumble before our eyes would be quite funny were it not for one thing. Every time an artefact is stolen to enhance some rich museum or private collection, someone else (usually a very poor country such as Nepal or Cambodia) is being robbed of its heritage. Many of those items would have been torn from sacred sites where they were the revered centrepieces of religious ceremonies.

So much attention has been focused on how institutions such as the British Museum profited from imperialism in the 19th century, or how the Soviet and Nazi regimes profited from art looting in the 20th, and it's right that we make amends for those crimes. However, we also have to acknowledge that looting is still going on, perhaps more than ever. When will it end? While the antiquities market remains unregulated and largely unpoliced, while there are still collectors with far more money than scruples, and while there are arts institutions as easily duped by faked paperwork as the Met claims to have been, the answer is never.

### This is really out of line!

**The great queues of my youth are going, one by one. You no longer have to queue all afternoon to get a standing ticket at the Proms or the "slips" at the Royal Opera. Fewer and fewer theatres offer day tickets that require getting up at dawn to stake your claim.**

**The National Theatre is the latest to withdraw them. Instead, the scramble for unsold and cheap tickets has been transferred online.**

**Where's the fun in that? Lasting friendships, even marriages, are made in queues for arty events. The queue tests your determination to see something, and the sheer stamina required makes the subsequent performance all the sweeter.**

**Besides which, queueing is quintessentially British. Noting the six-mile queue to view the Queen's coffin last September, one American journalist commented that this was "Brits doing the one thing they still do best".**

**A little catty, I agree — but now we don't even do that.**


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# THE CRITICS

**Will Hodgkinson** is moved by Depeche Mode p9
**James Marriott** enjoys a deep dive into Iraq p12
**Carol Midgley** has had enough of The Apprentice p15

# Bang! Bang! Bang! And, er … that's it

**the big film**

## Keanu Reeves returns as the hitman John Wick in a repetitive and idiotic fourth film, says Kevin Maher

MURRAY CLOSE/LIONSGATE



Keanu Reeves is even more minimalist than usual as the Californian surfer/Belarusian assassin

Steady those drinks and stow that popcorn because the Baba Yaga is back! Who's the Baba Yaga? Bang! That's you getting shot in the face for asking a stupid question. But, you say, you need to know who the Baba Yaga is to understand the … Bang! Bang! That's you getting shot again in the spirit of a movie, this movie, which regards all entreaties towards narrative logic, character and … Bang! Bang! Bang! As pointless distractions from … Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! An agonising 169 minutes of … Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The Baba Yaga, of course, is the nickname for Belarusian assassin/ Californian surfer plank John Wick, played by Keanu Reeves with an even more minimalist than normal performance register and the broken line delivery of a glitchy smartphone assistant. "You and. I left a. Good life behind a. Long time. Ago my friend," he says early on in an Osaka hotel to fellow assassin and best bud Shimazu Koji (Hiroyuki Sanada), who's like the Japanese John Wick but with even less backstory, and who enjoys three full minutes of screen time before, yep, you've guessed it … Bang! Bang! Bang!

Here Koji's luxury hotel is overrun by anonymous gun-toting henchmen wearing bulletproof samurai armour who can thus only be killed by the forceful insertion of a rapidly firing handgun beneath the chinstraps of their metallic helmets. Not to be outdone, Wick's sexy black single-breasted suit is bulletproof "tactical tailoring", which means that, when he's not joylessly blowing brains out, he's running through purpose-built kill zones holding his suit jacket up over his head like your nan in a rainstorm after she has had a new perm.

**John Wick: Chapter 4**
15, 169min
★☆☆☆☆

Wick, it transpires via a narrative device that is brazenly lifted from the three previous movies, has angered a powerful overlord with access to a limitless supply of utterly hopeless henchmen who will chase our hero from New York to Osaka to Berlin to Paris while being repeatedly, and tediously, shot in the face. The overlord this time is a terrifying French villain called the Marquis Vincent de Gramont who is played by the *It* bogeyman Bill Skarsgard with the kind of titter-inducing awfulness that suggests the character notes went no further than "has an accent". And dear Lord, what an accent! "Zere is sree types of men in zis world," begins one of de Gramont's many painfully laboured monologues. "Soze ooo av sumsink to live for. Soze ooo av sumsink to die for …" Sorry, I didn't catch the third type because I was drifting off. It's enough to make you wish for … and here it comes, right on cue … Bang! Bang! Bang!

This all might have been peachy and propulsive had the film been released roughly a decade ago, when the first *John Wick* emerged as a throwaway B-movie made by a former stuntman, Chad Stahelski, with tongue-in-cheek verve and swagger. But since then the formula of "ultraviolent henchmen-filled set pieces prolonged to the point of idiocy" has been consistently emulated, and often surpassed, in movies such as *Atomic Blonde* (aka Cold War female *John Wick*), *Deadpool* (superhero *John Wick*), *Nobody* (superannuated *John Wick*), *Bullet Train* (Brad Pitt's *John Wick*) and *Violent Night* (Father Christmas is *John Wick*).

This latest *Wick*, by comparison, is profoundly cumbersome. It's directed by Stahelski (he's done all the *Wicks*), but it's burdened by delusions of grandeur (see running time). It's essentially a Jason Statham-style shoot-'em-up that thinks it's a Christopher Nolan epic. It's as if Stahelski, and everyone involved, has confused running time with greatness — Nolan's *Dunkirk* is over an hour shorter than this bloated effort.

> **His line delivery is like a glitchy smartphone assistant**

Worst of all, the action itself is devoid of basic dramatic tension. When the "ultraviolent henchmen-filled set pieces prolonged to the point of idiocy" formula works effectively, it's because there are clear goals, jeopardy and physical risk — think of Charlize Theron dragging a wounded Eddie Marsan through an East German "extraction" in *Atomic Blonde*. In *John Wick: Chapter 4* there's a single inventive sequence, set on the steps of Paris's Rue Foyatier, and that has more than a nod to Laurel and Hardy's *The Music Box* (aka the one with the piano). Other than that, it's just Reeves and his endless assailants coldly trading conspicuously choreographed blows, meaningless and empty, punch after punch, gunshot after gunshot. Bang. Bang. Bang.
**In cinemas**

**classic film of the week**

**The Virgin Suicides (1999)**
15, 97min
★★★★☆

The spoiler's in the title. The first few lines of Giovanni Ribisi's deadpan narration even warn us that he's grimly charting "the demise of the Lisbon girls". And yet a film set in suburban Michigan in 1975, about a quintet of teenage pre-Raphaelite enigmas who take their own lives, somehow remains dreamy and beguiling.

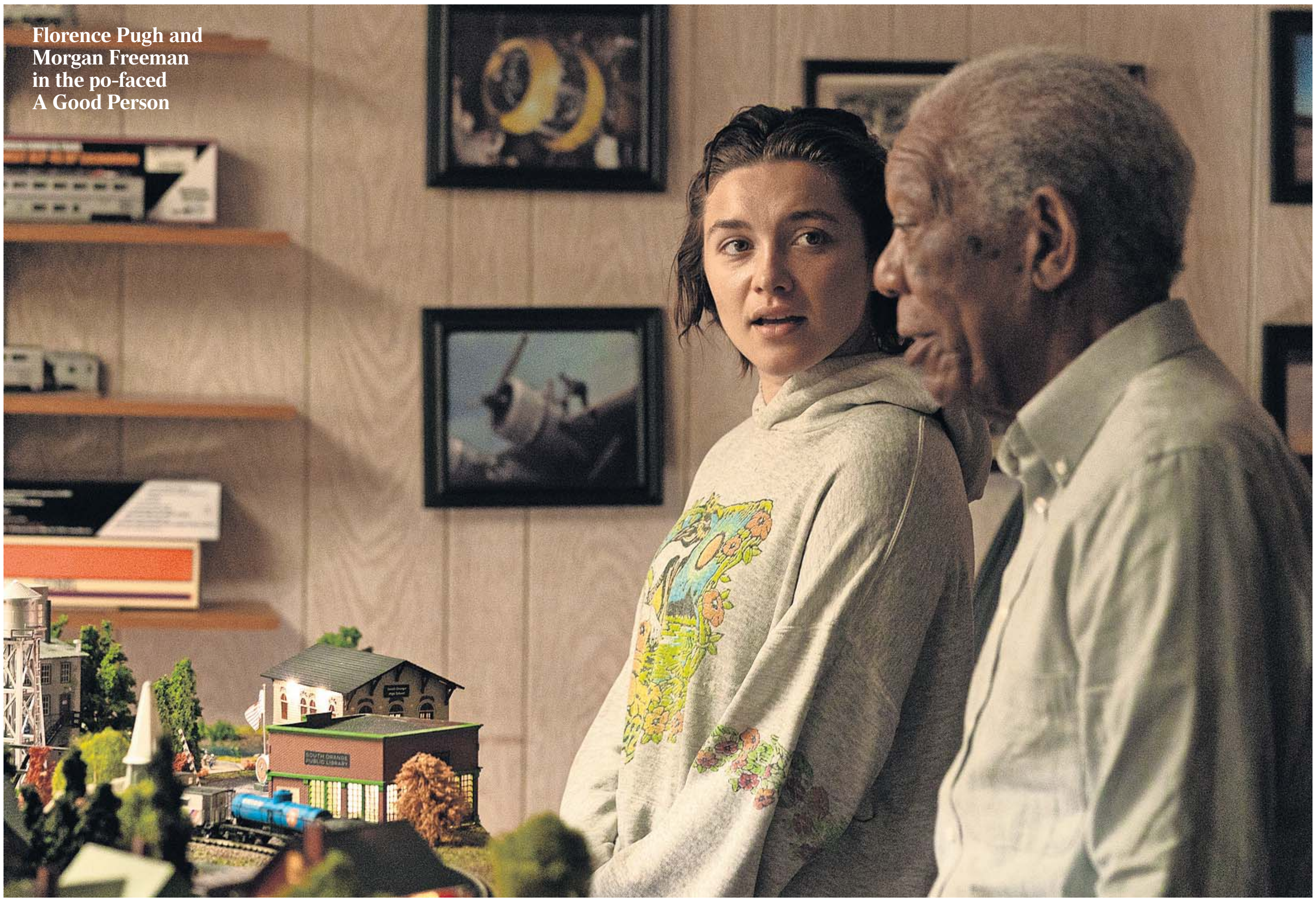
Part of this is because the writer-director Sofia Coppola, making her debut, conveys completely what the script calls the unfathomable "imprisonment of being a girl".



The cast of Sofia Coppola's debut

It's also because of the standout soundtrack from Air, the delicate turns from Coppola's performers (especially Kirsten Dunst as Lux Lisbon), and the central narrative device of a devious school stud, Trip Fontaine (Josh Hartnett), who pushes the story to its tragic conclusion.
**KM**
**Digital platforms and Blu-ray**

# film reviews



JEONG PARK/METRO GOLDWYN MAYER

Florence Pugh and Morgan Freeman in the po-faced A Good Person

# Even Miss Flo can't save this

## Zach Braff's preachy addiction melodrama is packed with clichés, says Kevin Maher

Beware of boyfriends bearing gifts. That's the lesson learnt from this soggy melodrama that has, for the first time in her contemporary screen career, exposed the limitations of its lead actress, Florence Pugh. The film was written for Pugh in 2021 by Zach Braff, then her partner, who is also the project's director. "I was his muse," she said recently. She plays a New Jersey-based pharmaceutical sales rep called Allison who accidentally causes a fatal car crash, becomes a guilt-stricken opioid addict, befriends a former abusive alcoholic called Daniel (Morgan Freeman) and tries to becalm his rebellious granddaughter Ryan (Celeste O'Connor). And that's only the first 15 minutes. Allison also has a semi-alcoholic mother (Molly Shannon), as well as professional songwriting ambitions, plus some childhood trauma surrounding an absent father. It is, in short, messy.

The tone is jarring throughout, mostly preachy and po-faced, and built upon several awkwardly overperformed scenes (Lots of "'F*** you!' 'No, f*** you!'") that mostly feel like offcuts from an Edward Albee tribute play. There's also a plethora of hoary "addict drama" staples that include the attempted overdose, the cold turkey sequence and the final sweaty relapse. Psychological realism, alas, is almost completely absent as Pugh marches through the motions with an uncharacteristically inscrutable professionalism. She cries on cue. She shouts when required. And she even, in an early lowlight, executes some "adorable" interpretive dance (don't ask). But during every moment, at every beat, the character remains vague and ill-defined.

It doesn't help that Braff's script seems unsure of Allison, or of how low to push her before raising her, eventually, to cathartic heights. We're told that in school she was "a bitch", but it seems unlikely. And her pharmaceuticals job, according to the script, is borderline immoral — it is joked that she's "going to hell". Yet beyond that she has no dramatic arc. She's just a nice, warm and talented person who briefly has a bad time but remains, at the end, nice, warm and talented. Great girlfriend material, clearly. Terrible subject for a film.

**In cinemas now, and on Sky Cinema from April 28**

### A Good Person

15, 129min

★★☆☆☆

### Infinity Pool

18, 118min

★☆☆☆☆

Brandon Cronenberg, son of David, continues to rehash his father's themes and preoccupations with this wearisome grand guignol body horror about the primal power of, yep, sex, death and reproduction. Like *The White Lotus* without the gags, it's set among a bunch of affluenza-addled twits in a luxury resort in the fictional coastal nation of Li Tolqa.

Our twit protagonist, the blocked writer James Foster (Alexander Skarsgard), falls under the spell of an amoral gang of rich western reprobates led by Mia Goth's manic pixie succubus, Gabi. These evil though not especially interesting neocolonialists enjoy strobe-lit sex parties and gore-filled spectacles involving the evisceration of clueless human clones. Foster is pushed to the edge of his sanity just as the audience is pushed beyond the brink of boredom. The film is visually unremarkable too, although the centrepiece orgy appears to feature subliminal flashes of nipples erupting with penises.

**In cinemas**

### The Five Devils

15, 96min

★★★☆☆

A surfeit of storytelling ambition is the only thing that threatens to upend this otherwise startling second feature from the French director Léa Mysius. The setting is majestically Alpine — it was shot in Isère, southeast France — and serves as the mythical backdrop for a tale of time-travelling and modern-day witchcraft.

It follows Vicky (Sally Dramé), a taciturn ten-year-old with supercharged olfactory senses who can, with just one deeply inhaled whiff, transport herself physically through the decades. She's pinged back to the late-teen trauma of her mother, Joanne (a commanding Adèle Exarchopoulos), who has fallen for her new gymnastics buddy Julia (Swala Emati), an illicit relationship that will have disastrous consequences.

There are lots of other complications and side stories, including the details of Vicky's harried school life, a nascent romance for Joanne's husband and a slightly preposterous "race to the lake" finale. But it's flawlessly played and buoyed with warmth and optimism.

**In cinemas**

### The Beasts

15, 139min

★★★★☆

A toxic true-life culture clash in the remote farming regions of northern Spain becomes the basis for this unsettling thriller from Rodrigo Sorogoyen.

The sad-eyed arthouse stalwart Denis Ménochet plays Antoine, a French teacher who moves to Galicia in 2010 with his wife, Olga (Marina Foïs), harbouring dreams of organic produce, sustainable living and a simpler way of being.



**Marina Foïs as Olga in the unsettling thriller about the dark side of Spanish rural life**

The brutish locals, led by the near-psychotic Xan (Luis Zahera), have other ideas and, after quarrelling with Antoine over a lucrative wind-farming proposal, they channel their xenophobia into something far more sinister.

There is a dash of *Straw Dogs* and *Deliverance*, but Sorogoyen deftly steers clear of exploitation cinema. The movie becomes a knottier and more difficult experience. It's a portrait of male rage and resentment, and a bleak tribute to the women in rural communities who, simply, endure.

**In cinemas and on Curzon Home Cinema**

### The Cow Who Sang a Song into the Future

15, 99min

★★☆☆☆

Latin American magical realism abounds in this feature debut from the Chilean director Francisca Alegría. It's a modern eco-fable about Magdalena (Mía Maestro), a troubled wife and mother who emerges from the river where she drowned decades earlier. She's a clueless ghost and an avenging fury, seemingly reincarnated by the pollution in Chile's Cruces River and a metaphor for environmental decay and family trauma.

The messaging, alas, is (deliberately?) muddled. Cows occasionally "sing" (their voices off camera) the story — "Our end is here. Death is coming." There's a sketchy subplot about Magdalena being gaslit into insanity by her husband and lots of unearned melodramatic bonding between Magdalena's adult daughter Cecilia (Leonor Varela) and Cecilia's trans daughter Tomas (Enzo Ferrada Rosati), who's Magdalena's spiritual heir on Earth and a symbol of Gaia's rejuvenating power. It's too slipshod to be serious, too earnest to entertain.

**In cinemas**

music reviews

# Intimate moments with rock's great survivors

## Depeche Mode's latest reflects on death and regret in elegant style, finds Will Hodgkinson

Over a 43-year career that has survived the loss of founder member Vince Clark in 1981, the singer Dave Gahan's period of heroin addiction in the early 1990s and the keyboardist/songwriter Martin Gore's bouts of alcoholism, alongside musical shifts that have taken in everything from cheerful electronic pop to dark industrial dissonance, Depeche Mode have always seemed unbreakable. They have a huge and loyal fanbase the world over, which means they don't have to worry about such commercial considerations as chart placings or streaming numbers. They are driven by their own tastes and considerations rather than the shifting sands of fashion.

They exude a quality that is rare in a band of this size: modesty, or at least impostor syndrome of some sort. Then the founder member Andy Fletcher, who operated as a calming influence and a peacemaker between Gahan's frontman ego and Gore's sensitive-artist control freakery, died of an aortic dissection in May last year. It looked like the world's most dependable stadium-filling weirdos might finally fall apart.

Somehow Gahan and Gore have managed to reconcile their differences without their bandmate to do it for them, because *Memento Mori* is everything you want from a Depeche Mode album. Elegant, catchy and dark, it's held together by pained reflections on life, death and what happens on the other side. "Wasted feelings/ broken meanings/ time is fleeting," Gahan agonises on *Ghosts Again,* a pretty electronic treatise on the fact that our years on this earth are few and we really should use them better. *Don't Say You Love Me* goes straight towards the torch-song melodrama of Scott Walker, with words about the impossibility of love between two damaged souls. "You are the singer/ I am the song," Gahan croons, which doesn't sound too bad until he compares himself to "the tune that will linger/ the bitter taste left on your tongue". And that is another thing altogether.

This being Depeche Mode, a fair amount of death and regret makes it on to the album. "Everything seems hollow/ when you watch another angel die," Gahan sings on the pulsing, metronomic *Wagging Tongue*, which he wrote after hearing about the death of his friend, the fellow singer and former addict Mark Lanegan. And *Speak to Me*, with its ambient synth washes and words about a force that seems to answer your problems, evokes the warm blanket of heroin addiction while also hinting at its ultimate conclusion.

This adds up to an intimate, personal and finely constructed work, divested of the political concerns that dominated 2017's *Spirit* and combining the light pop of the early albums with the ominous dread of the later ones, adding bizarre, absorbing and futuristic sounds along the way. There is also a gentler, more philosophical side to the band on display, which doesn't always emerge over Gore's air of S&M-tinged transgression and Gahan's doomy grandeur. "I'm heading for the ever after/ leaving my problems/ and the world's disasters," the latter songs on the epic *Soul With Me*. Hopefully not yet — Depeche Mode have a stadium tour to complete — but such heavy musings on love and mortality suit a band who, despite everything thrown at them, have proven to be above all else survivors.

ANTON CORBIJN



**Martin Gore and Dave Gahan**

**pop**

**Depeche Mode**
**Memento Mori**
Mute
★★★★☆

Jazz album
**Billy Valentine's tender reworking of civil rights soul classics reviewed at thetimes.co.uk/arts**

**Lana Del Rey**
**Did You Know That There's a Tunnel Underneath Ocean Blvd**
Polydor
★★★☆☆

Like its title, the latest by pop's own Hollywood siren for the age of anxiety is overlong: 77 minutes. Indulgence aside, there is some remarkable songwriting here: personal, revelatory and deeply felt. An a capella section, followed by plangent piano, soaring strings and a heavenly choir of voices, sets the tone on the opener *The Grants*; seemingly a song of hope for her family, with Del Rey asking: "Do you think there's a chance for us?" Touches of catty humour — "If you want some basic bitch go to the Beverly Center," she suggests on *Sweet* — enliven the melodrama, while the best ballads (there are far too many of them) capture modern ennui in a way that is both romantic and familiar. It could have done with some serious editing but *Did You Know*… is brave, with zero concessions to hit material and a total commitment to Del Rey's dreamlike aesthetic.

**Fall Out Boy**
**So Much (For) Stardust**
Fueled by Ramen
★★☆☆☆

This four-piece led by Pete Wentz emerged from Chicago's underground hardcore scene before embracing pop punk, that Noughties genre in which fast, catchy tunes combined with teenage rebellion to guarantee commercial success. On their latest, all traces of an alternative sensibility have been removed in favour of a style that has more in common with stadium rock than punk, with orchestral flourishes, roaring, heroic vocals from the singer Patrick Stump, and cheesy words about star-crossed lovers and love in an apocalypse. Ethan Hawke pops up on *The Pink Seashell*, a thoughtful treatise on his father's death, but elsewhere the combination of Queen-style histrionics, portentous lyrics and hoary rock moments make it an overblown, humourless affair.

# The diva who buried her own recordings — was she right?

One dreads to think of the wrath that Jessye Norman would have unleashed if anyone had tried to let her "unreleased masters" see the light of the day during her lifetime. These recordings now posthumously made available by Decca (Norman died in 2019, at the age of 74) were unreleased because the fastidious, often intransigent and sometimes just quixotic singer thought better of them.

Now, however, with the blessing of Norman's brother (he has said the estate will use any funds from the album in aid of the singer's charities) three CDs-worth of musical treasures are out in the world. It's a fascinating but problematic postscript to an extraordinary career.

The most controversial of these recordings emerged in the most tricky circumstances. For decades Norman, *right*, whose voice crossed registers (soprano or mezzo?) and genres, flirted with singing Wagner's Isolde. In 1998 finally she appeared with a full cast before the microphones to tape *Tristan and Isolde* with Kurt Masur and the Leipzig Gewandhaus, but the mood soured and even a rescue attempt — turning it into a highlights disc — was torpedoed by the diva.

Put simply, she was right. The *Tristan* extracts were caught when Norman was in her mid-fifties and the centre of the voice now sounds as if it has pulled downwards, with the higher register thinner and more effortful (both high Bs in Isolde's "Narration and Curse" are uncomfortable).

This glimpse of her Wagnerian heroine still tantalises. Norman's grandeur was inbuilt, but her Isolde is also touchingly vulnerable; the singer brings searching tenderness to the text. The climactic *Liebestod* (which she recorded with other conductors) is significantly more poised than the rest.

However, the support is mediocre and the acoustic weird and boxy. Masur and the Leipzig players bring little spark, whether erotic or dramatic. Hanna Schwarz is a reedy-voiced Brangäne, and Thomas Moser a decent but unremarkable Tristan. A young Ian Bostridge is perky as the sailor, though.

Thankfully, the other repertoire here, which Norman reportedly buried for far more minor reasons, reminds us just what a phenomenon she was. Yes, her 1982 recording of Strauss's *Four Last Songs* has mystical status, but this uncorked 1989 live recording (Berlin Philharmonic, conducted by James Levine) is transcendently beautiful and more lithely paced than the hallowed classic. The same forces accompany Norman's rapt, intelligent performance of Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder*, again music she returned to often.

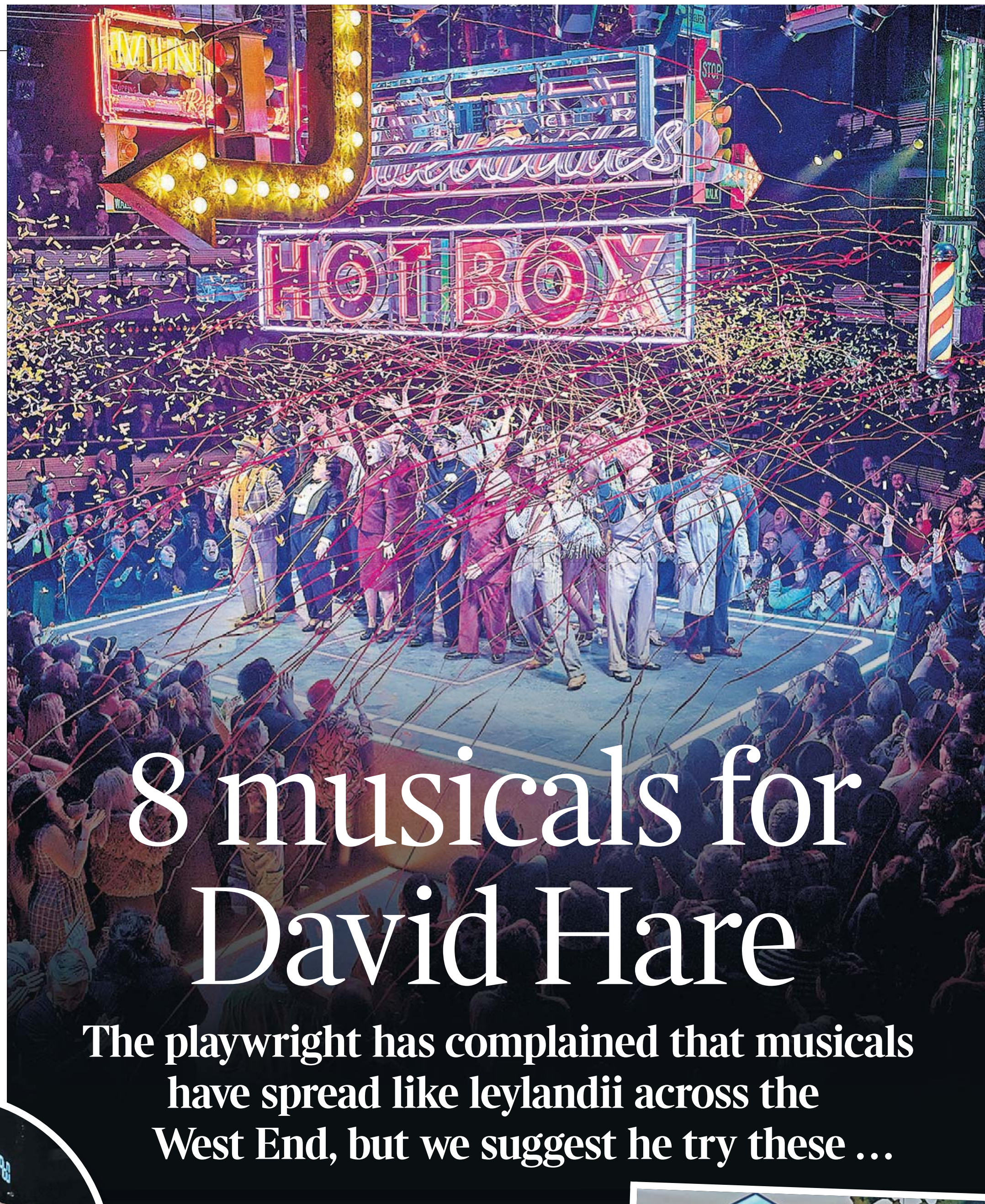
The final disc in the set is a brilliant technical and dramatic feat by Norman, partnered by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Seiji Ozawa. Recorded in 1994, she plays three queens in the grip of mortal crisis: Haydn's Berenice, Berlioz's Cleopatra and Britten's Phaedra. Norman uses her vast vocal palette to create three gripping portraits in which regal authority confronts womanly heartache. By the end, you can only bow down in supplication.
**Neil Fisher**

**classical**

**Jessye Norman:**
**The Unreleased Masters**
Decca
★★★★☆



arts



MANUEL HARLAN

# 8 musicals for David Hare

**The playwright has complained that musicals have spread like leylandii across the West End, but we suggest he try these …**

## 1 Oklahoma!

David Hare says this one is being dubbed "Wokelahoma", an accusation that seems to be based on little other than its multiracial cast. True, Daniel Fish's Tony award-winning production, which has transferred to the West End from the Young Vic, is no ordinary Rodgers and Hammerstein revival. The design is pared down, the show is harshly lit and the brutality of the story is highlighted. The musicians are superb, the score brilliantly reorchestrated for a bluegrass band. Arthur Darvill, playing Curly, and Anoushka Lucas as his belle Laurey are terrifically intense. The end result is a meaner, leaner and much more abrasive take on a classic. "I cain't say no," Hare will surely warble down Shaftesbury Avenue once he finally sees the light and books a ticket.
*Wyndham's Theatre, London WC2, to September 2 (oklahomawestend.com)*

## 2 Guys and Dolls

It would take a joyless soul to resist having their life affirmed by Nick Hytner's take on one of the greatest musicals ever. We thought that Richard Eyre's adored 1982 rethinking of *Guys and Dolls* was impossible to match, but judging by its effusive critical reception (it got enough stars to open a planetarium), Hytner's promenade version at the Bridge Theatre in London has achieved the unthinkable. Hare might appreciate the wit and wordplay of some of the cleverest lyrics written, courtesy of Frank Loesser, as well as the sparkling book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows. Daniel Mays as Nathan Detroit, the gambler who seeks to organise an illegal craps game, may be a long way from Frank Sinatra, who played him in the 1955 film, but there is no denying Marisha Wallace's charisma and vocal wallop as his girlfriend, Miss Adelaide. And if none of that appeals, there's always the excellent hot dog stand and pretzel stall in the interval.
*Bridge Theatre, London SE1, to September 2 (bridgetheatre.co.uk)*



## 3 Six

Here's a home-grown success story to warm even the coldest theatre purist's heart. *Six* premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2017 in a Cambridge University student production. Now it's playing in the West End, on Broadway, in Canada, Australia and South Korea, and has won two Tonys. Why? Because it's an absolute riot, putting the wives of Henry VIII centre stage to tell their side of the story in an arena-style pop concert with songs inspired by Adele, Ariana Grande and Beyoncé. The audience is packed with young fans every night — and a good show can be the gateway to being a lifelong fan. Goodness knows theatre could do with a few more of those.
*Vaudeville Theatre, London WC2, to April 28, 2024, and touring the UK (sixthemusical.com)*



**Above: Guys and Dolls. Left: Rachael Wooding and Robert Lonsdale in Standing at the Sky's Edge. Below: John McCrea in Cabaret. Right: Haydn Gwynne and John Owen-Jones in The Great British Bake Off Musical**

## 4 Standing at the Sky's Edge

Richard Hawley is not a man synonymous with hoofing, but it turns out that the Sheffield singer-songwriter's tunes are gorgeously suited to musical theatre. *Open Up Your Door*, *Coles Corner* and *Tonight the Streets Are Ours* are shot through with bruised northern romanticism even when delivered not in Hawley's oaky baritone but by actors playing three generations of tenants on the brutalist Park Hill estate in his home city. Chris Bush's ingenious book bounces between a pair of newlyweds, a family of Liberian refugees and a heartbroken working woman, living in the same flat at different times, from the Sixties to the present day. A joyful, hilarious and tragic state-of-the-nation tale, it is deservedly nominated in eight categories at the Oliviers next month.
*Olivier, National Theatre, London SE1, to March 25 (nationaltheatre.org.uk)*

## 5 Cabaret

The musical that even people who definitely don't like musicals tend to like — and concrete proof that song and dance doesn't have to mean light and fluffy. Sally Bowles is the glamorous tragic heroine par excellence, which is why so many brilliant actresses have lined up to play her, from Judi Dench in the West End premiere in 1968 to Michelle Williams on Broadway in 2014 and, more recently, Jessie Buckley in Rebecca Frecknall's thrillingly louche and immersive revival, now playing at the Playhouse Theatre with *Sex Education*'s Aimee Lou Wood in the role. It's a journey into hell, with fantastic songs, that packs a devastating political punch. There can't be many more memorably disturbing moments in theatre than the horrifying slow reveal that is the closing song of Act I, *Tomorrow Belongs to Me*. A spine-chiller every time.
*Playhouse Theatre, London WC2 (theplayhousetheatre.co.uk/cabaret)*



## 6 Hamilton

"How does a bastard, orphan, son of a whore and a Scotsman grow up to be a hero and a scholar?" The story of Lin-Manuel Miranda's blockbusting musical could easily have inspired one of Hare's political dramas, although it would be a dry old thing without the songs. Miranda's fiendishly clever lyrics are even smarter when they are wrapped into those bitingly clever musical numbers, which don't just bring us a fascinating rethink of the US founding father Alexander Hamilton but concisely unspool vast chunks of American revolutionary history with all the wit your history teacher never had. Cleverest of all is *The Room Where It Happens*, a slinky set piece that makes the Compromise of 1790 suddenly fascinating and not a strange bureaucratic footnote in the early history of the United States.
*Victoria Palace Theatre, London SW1; Manchester Palace Theatre, November 11 to February 24, 2024; then Edinburgh from February 28, 2024 (hamiltonmusical.com/uk)*

## 7 Matilda the Musical

The best new musical of the past two decades. OK, it's not an arch commentary on the failures of the Blair government, but it is about a child who loves words with a passion — something the playwright might applaud, along with the sentiment that "sometimes you have to be a little bit naughty". Dennis Kelly and Tim Minchin's award-winning musical — based on Roald Dahl's story about the girl with superpowers — with its original songs and sharp, funny, modern lyrics, has proved that there is life beyond the jukebox musical. Since it opened to rave reviews in Stratford in 2010 it has transferred to the West End, where it has been running ever since with a succession of brilliant Matildas. Bertie Carvel's Miss Trunchbull was one of the great comic villains of the 21st century (although Hare might think of another, beginning with B).
*Cambridge Theatre, London WC2 (matildathemusical.com)*

## 8 The Great British Bake Off Musical

"Only an arch-curmudgeon could take offence at a celebration of a great British institution," said the Times theatre critic Clive Davis on the transfer of this light-as-a-soufflé show to the West End this month. It's an uplifting night of silly escapism that's well sung, well acted and nicely staged, and like the TV show it offers an appealing formula of camped-up humour, culinary double entendres and a self-deprecating sense of the ridiculous. The show is at its best when poking fun at shameless celebrity self-promotion and we idiosyncratic Brits in elevating cake-making into a national sport. Yes, it's about soggy bottoms not rail privatisation, but doesn't a healthy theatrical ecosystem have room for both? Before *Bake Off* opened, James Graham's intellectually bracing *Best of Enemies*, about 1960s American politics, played to sell-out audiences at the same theatre for three months. Sometimes you just have to let audiences eat cake.
*Noël Coward Theatre, London WC2, to May 13 (bakeoffthemusical.com)*

# FIRST NIGHT

the best critics on the top shows of the week



**Will Hodgkinson** has a night out with Wet Leg p12
**Susie Goldsbrough** gets slinky with Patrice Rushen p13
**Jack Blackburn** uncovers Anglo-Saxon treasure p14

# My impression? It's hit after hit

ADAGP, PARIS AND DACS, LONDON 2023/PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OWNER; RMN-GRAND PALAIS (MUSÉE MAURICE DENIS)/BENOÎT TOUCHARD





**Théo van Rysselberghe's 1888 portrait of Alice Sèthe. Left: The Dance, 1906, by André Derain**

## The National Gallery tells a bold new story about post-impressionism, says Chloë Ashby

Did you know that Balzac liked to work in his dressing gown? I didn't. But here he is, a hulking figure wrapped in fabric, feet poking out from beneath the hem (I can't help wondering what sort of slippers he preferred to pad around in). Head craned, hollow eyes gazing inwards, a man in deep contemplation. Rather than capturing a convincing likeness, the artist, Rodin, conjured in plaster the celebrated writer's unbridled imagination.

*Monument to Balzac* (1898) is one of a handful of sculptures in *After Impressionism: Inventing Modern Art*, a starry and extensive new exhibition at the National Gallery. Bringing together more than 100 works (mostly paintings) made between the final impressionist exhibition in Paris in 1886 and the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, the show charts the evolution of avant-garde art-making in the French capital and further afield. Through increasingly stylised and decorative canvases, gestural strokes and heightened palettes, we witness a collective shift away from naturalism towards abstraction and a new-found tendency to favour mood and imagination.

There are very many masterpieces. A few of my favourites: Degas' hot and fiery homage to hair-brushing; Bonnard's *Young Woman by Lamplight* (c1898), featuring the artist's smudgy, paint-splattered plate; Vuillard's old schoolfriend Lugné-Poë, stark and angular, poring over a page; André Derain's friezelike figures twisting and sliding through a woodland glade, a snake coiling at their feet; a snow-covered field that Van Gogh painted while in the asylum at Saint-Rémy, the furrowed landscape recast in an icy blue-green.

So far, so familiar, but the exhibition makes good on its promise to look beyond a narrow definition of post-impressionism. After an introduction by way of late 19th-century Paris's most experimental trio — Cézanne, Van Gogh, Gauguin — we're whisked away to bold artistic centres in Barcelona and Brussels, Vienna and Berlin. Some names you'll recognise — Edvard Munch, Käthe Kollwitz — while others will be less familiar.

**visual art**

### After Impressionism
National Gallery
★★★★☆

The Belgian painter Théo van Rysselberghe's portrait of Alice Sèthe, shimmering in pointillist blue, standing in front of a mirror, reminds me of canvases by Manet and Ingres (not included) while having a creative expression all of its own.

Throughout, clever curatorial touches spark conversations. The way the tilting composition of *Madame Cézanne in a Red Dress* (1888-90) nudges the viewer along to *Sugar Bowl, Pears and Tablecloth* (1893-94), with similarly sloped contents. The repetition of the black-and-white chequered chair in the Austrian artist Broncia Koller-Pinell's exquisite portrait of her mother, and the pearl-white checked gown of Hermine Gallia painted by Gustav Klimt.

Less pleasing is the connection I soon make between Maurice Denis' *Homage to Cézanne* (1900) — a group of male artists and critics and, squeezed against the right-hand side, a solitary woman (the artist's wife, Marthe) — and the exhibition as a whole: while modernism's great men are here in full force, no more than two women appear per room, each represented by a single work while most of their male counterparts have a few. An unfortunate lapse; as well as hinting at his interior world, old Balzac's hollow eyes may suggest a blind spot of ours. A shame, because there really is so much that's good here.

**From tomorrow to August 13, nationalgallery.org.uk**

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**classical**

### The Chevalier
St Martin-in-the-Fields, WC2
★★★☆☆

The extraordinary Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges — the only 18th-century mixed-race composer (and violinist and champion fencer) to win celebrity in Europe — is not a forgotten figure. But it has still taken a surprisingly long time in this post-George Floyd era for his contemporary fame to come to the boil.

Wait until June, however, and you'll be able to see his Hollywood biography, *Chevalier*. In the meantime, we've had the UK premiere of Bill Barclay's *The Chevalier*, a musical play or theatrical concert, featuring costumed actors at the front of the stage area, musicians behind, plus plenty of dialogue about racism, authoritarianism and human rights put in to ring the bell.

The warm acoustic of St Martin-in-the-Fields made listening to Bologne's pleasant and spirited music a joy, though we only heard works in slices and chunks. London Philharmonic Orchestra members were as lively as usual, conducted by Matthew Kofi Waldren. It was interesting too watching Braimah Kanneh-Mason's fingers accurately conquering the virtuoso thrills packed into the Chevalier's violin concertos. The same acoustic, however, regularly smothered Barclay's knowing dialogue in the resonating haze expected from an 18th-century church. The ears had to do a lot of fishing to grasp the words, especially when softly spoken — not something that probably happened at the show's previous venue, the Maltings at Snape.

The acting skills of Barclay's cast helped to bring some clarity. Chukwudi Iwuji radiated warmth and dignity as the multitalented musician at large in Paris and Versailles, who briefly shared a house with Mozart and caught the attention of Marie Antoinette (all true). Playing Mozart, David Jordan followed Tom Hulce's footsteps in the film of *Amadeus*: Mozart as a lively American brat. But he did the turn well, as did Barclay as the sardonic narrator, Choderlos de Laclos, the author of *Les Liaisons dangereuses*. Merritt Janson's Marie Antoinette made less of an impression, but it wasn't for lack of trying.

The last stretch of speech was a scramble of narration, clumsily whirling us through Bologne's last years. Jolly music finished it off, closing a musical portrait that gave Bologne a boost, made modern connections and satisfied most of the audience enough to generate a modest ovation. I'll certainly applaud the show's ambition, and the music too. It just didn't belong in a resonant church.
**Geoff Brown**

**first night**

# The Iraq war explored in fascinating detail

**podcast**

## Shock and War: Iraq 20 Years On

★★★★☆

The war in Iraq is my first real memory of a world event.

The first television images are fixed in my memory — fountains of eerie green sparks erupting from the skyline of Baghdad in the night-vision camera footage that was plastered all over the news, then the columns of American tanks rolling through endless beige desert. Rewatching that, I am struck by how awful it seems to me now and how un-awful it seemed then. When I was 11 it all struck me as a game of soldiers for grown-ups. Now I can't help thinking of all the 11-year-old kids who were in that city tucked up in their pyjamas.

Well, Gordon Corera's fascinating new BBC Sounds podcast about the war interviews one such kid. Salman was 12 when the invasion started. And he asks his dad what it all means. He's told: "Now you can open the window and shout against Saddam." That, he says, "was the first feeling of freedom".

Salman's story is just one piece of the remarkable panorama of the war Corera has assembled through an extraordinary range of interviews. His interviewees include troops and civilians, UN weapons inspectors and those making decisions right at the very top. Especially interesting are Richard Dearlove and Eliza Manningham-Buller, who were the heads of MI6 and MI5 respectively at the time of the invasion. Impressively, Corera even gets an interview with Tony Blair, who sounds somewhat strangulated in his attempts to justify what happened. "You've got to make these judgments as prime minister," Blair says when asked if he was still sure it was the right thing to invade.

What I don't remember from the TV as a kid was what happened after the invasion. I recall the statue of Saddam Hussein toppling, but after that the whole thing becomes misty. Fortunately Corera's podcast is very strong on this. Looting, riots, gangs, the collapse of the rule of law. "People in the neighbourhood I was living in had their daughters kidnapped for ransom," one interviewee recalls.

Salman initially believed that Iraq, with its oil wealth and American support, was destined to become a rich nation. In fact, the country's story has been one of corruption, lawlessness and the emergence of sectarian divides. "A government of thieves," one observer says. Another doubts whether Iraq is even a country at all any more.

Salman was arrested in a protest against the country's mismanagement. In jail he met teenage protesters who had had their fingernails torn off by the guards. This is not a country with a happy future.

**James Marriott**

AARON CHOWN/PA



**Wet Leg's Rhian Teasdale led a concert that zipped by in a flash**

# A jolly good knees-up

**The band's rise has been fast but they're the real deal, writes Will Hodgkinson**

**pop**

## Wet Leg

Royal Albert Hall

★★★★☆

Roger Daltrey's Teenage Cancer Trust concerts at the Royal Albert Hall attract some pretty big names. Paul McCartney, Paul Weller and, unsurprisingly, the Who have lent their talents. You can understand why Wet Leg's singer, Rhian Teasdale, might feel overwhelmed at headlining there, given that before the pandemic she had a day job clambering inside a giant puppet costume called a Squawk Bird at an Isle of Wight theme park.

"This is just so strange," she said. "I feel like we're inside a big lovely cake with lots of tiers." These were the words of someone who has had very little time to adapt to her altered situation. In June 2021, when *Chaise Longue*, an irresistible bit of guitar-led nonsense about worrying your mother and coming home from university with "the big D" that could variously be about sex, academic failure, parental neglect or all three, became a word-of-mouth phenomenon. Tens of millions of streams, two Brit awards and countless festival appearances later, Wet Leg are a household name. Yet they still came across like an averagely ambitious indie band who stumbled into fame by mistake.

> **They came across like an indie band who stumbled into fame**

Teasdale (short skirt, high boots) and Hester Chambers (long dress) played guitars and danced about front of stage while the three boys in the band (long hair, scruffy jeans) held it down at the back and sides, and although the songs were straightforward, three-chord affairs, it was the character they infused into them that appealed. *Wet Dream* was an innuendo-laden singalong, *Supermarket* was a shopping-based seduction song, and the whole thing zipped by in a flash. Sometimes it was silly, as with *Ur Mum*. Sometimes it was profound: "I don't need no dating app to tell me if I look like crap," from *Too Late Now* was one illuminating vignette on modern life. For the most part, coming after a period in history when bands have felt the need to be all serious and deep, it was refreshing.

"Are you ready to scream?" the guitarist/keyboard player Josh Mobaraki asked. Everyone was. By the finale, *Chaise Longue*, they were ready to do a response of "what" to Chambers's "excuse me", so famous have the lyrics become. Who knows where Wet Leg will go from here, but for now, witnessing them ride the crest of a wave that took them all the way to the Albert Hall was very exciting indeed.

**Coventry, May 22, then touring, wetlegband.com**

**theatre**

## Killing the Cat

Riverside Studios, W6

★★☆☆☆

Mercurius Theatre's new Anglo-American chamber musical couches a holiday rom-com within a debate about science versus faith. The wit in Warner Brown's book and lyrics is well served by the assured performances of a talented, likeable cast of five, while Joshua Schmidt's music has an adventurous melodic range. Yet, for all that, Jenny Eastop's production gradually disappears up its own fundament; it is heartfelt yet woolly and banal.

The premise is simple: Maggie, the author of a runaway bestseller about biophysics, heads off on holiday to Tuscany. There she has a meet-cute with Luke, a British farmer and produce vendor whose fervent spiritual leanings are totally at odds with her rational viewpoint. Can their instantaneously strong mutual attraction survive such clashing belief systems?

It is refreshing on the surface to find a musical that treats philosophical questions with a sense of mischief. Certainly the actors seem to enjoy themselves as they cavort on and about Lee Newby's clean-cut if rather characterless sets.

Madalena Alberto makes an engaging Maggie, a smart, newly divorced woman of young middle age tantalised by the prospect of a fresh, if problematic, relationship. She fizzes her way through Maggie's big number, a celebration of elements of human chemistry. Tim Rogers is just as committed in the less developed role of Luke. Molly Lynch and Joaquin Pedro Valdes make the most of sketchy supporting roles as younger tourists, one achingly earnest about the glory of dead poets and the other quietly suffering from existential angst.

The keyboard player and musical director Billy Bullivant, Robert Jane on percussion and the especially expressive and attentive cellist Georgia Morse merit mention. But for all its evident skill and good intentions, *Killing the Cat* becomes a case of diminishing returns. The bottom line is I didn't care enough about the characters' arguments and dilemmas to make the show matter.

**Donald Hutera**

**To April 22, riversidestudios.co.uk**

**theatre**

## They Don't Pay? We Won't Pay!

Mercury, Colchester

★★☆☆☆

Perhaps it's a sign of how fast life moves today that a joke about Liz Truss and lettuces can seem as ancient as a quip about Gladstone and his bag. Or perhaps the problem with Deborah McAndrew's updated adaptation of the left-wing Italian farce better known as *Can't Pay? Won't Pay!* is that the new gags just aren't all that sharp.



**Mark Pickering takes on several roles**

Ryan McBryde's revival huffs and puffs in the hope of generating some sort of knockabout energy from Dario Fo and Franca Rame's shambling comedy about noble proletarians taking on "the system" by indulging in a bout of supermarket looting. But for all the vim and enthusiasm of the cast, this version — first produced by Northern Broadsides in 2018 — is a woeful exercise in agitprop-meets-panto.

The designer Zoë Hurwitz gives us an evocative backdrop in an image of a brutalist tower block, and a raucous punk version of *Land of Hope and Glory* roars away as the action begins. But the muddled storyline soon collapses into a dreary set of comic contrivances peppered with incongruous references to the Pope's views on reproductive rights.

Laura Doddington plays Anthea, the harassed wife who decides to solve her money troubles by helping herself to life's necessities. The puns she lobs towards the audience with a knowing wink are mildly amusing at first but soon grow tiresome. Joseph Alessi takes the role of her socialist husband, Jack, an upholder of the rule of law who would rather lock himself away in his den adorned with a beatific image of Jeremy Corbyn. The anaemic storyline would have us believe that when Anthea's friend Maggie (Tesni Kujore) hides her stash of stolen produce under her clothes, dim-witted Jack assumes she has suddenly put on weight.

Just about every line is shouted, every joke applied with a sledgehammer. Marc Pickering has fun, though, multitasking as bumbling police officers, an undertaker and other parts besides. Jack Shalloo is Maggie's befuddled other half, Lewis. At the very end, as mayhem breaks out in all directions, Anthea pours her frustrations into an excruciating party conference speech that throws in references to the pandemic and the PPE scandal. There's a placard-waving demo with a crowd of extras too. If *Mrs Brown's Boys* were asked to dramatise *The Communist Manifesto*, the results might look something like this.

**Clive Davis**

**To March 31, mercurytheatre.co.uk**

# first night

## pop

### Patrice Rushen

Jazz Cafe, NW1
★★★★☆

Some musicians light up the sky with their brilliance, then crash to earth and disappear. Others have quieter, steadier flames and smoulder on for decades. Patrice Rushen is type No 2: at 68, the Californian jazz singer whose stream of poppy, disco-infused R&B albums earned her a cult following in the Eighties is alight.

A couple of glorious dancefloor staples aside — most obviously her Grammy-nominated 1982 single *Forget Me Nots* — Rushen has never been a chartbuster, but she is a musician's musician. Yet in the past few years Rushen's fame has boomed among younger listeners thanks to some website called TikTok. In 2021 *Forget Me Nots* became the soundtrack to one of the video-sharing platform's viral "dance challenges", spawning thousands of videos in which users bopped along to the opening groove. That being said, the crowd who packed in to see her sold-out show haven't been teenagers for a while.

Beaming in a butter-yellow blazer, with big round glasses and piled-up braids, Rushen strode straight to the keyboard, nodded to the band — and took off. Under the soft pink and green light of a slowly rotating disco ball she tore through the jazzy foot-tapper *Number One* ("Because you're number one," she told the crowd. "But also because it was first"), the syrupy soul tune *Hang It Up* and the silky ballad *Remind Me*, plus many more.

You can see why Rushen rarely made it to the top of the charts: her songs are served with generous intros and long instrumental solos from the band (who all seemed to be friends or distant relations of Rushen's). The lyrics are not notable for their complexity — they just circle winningly around the title conceit. It is music that never feels as if it's in a hurry. You have to let go and let the music drift past you like smoke.

Her stage presence is warm, mischievous and dry. "Because you were here, because I was here — you need to go get you a T-shirt," she exhorted mildly during a "shameless plug" of her tour merchandise. Her fingers danced across the keys. Her lovely, delicate voice never strained or struggled. The crowd loved her. The Tokers love her. Forget me not? No need to ask.

**Susie Goldsbrough**

PAUL BLAKEMORE



Garry Robson's tough circus manager Waldo is put to the test by political and personal circumstances

# Nazis and trapeze acts

**This musical about a circus troupe in 1930s Germany gets under your skin, says Donald Hutera**

## theatre

### Waldo's Circus of Magic & Terror

Bristol Old Vic
★★★★☆

Extraordinary Bodies is an integrated circus company of artists and activists sprung from a collaboration between Cirque Bijou and the charity Diverse City. Their ambitious new touring production charts relationships among the members of a financially beleaguered circus troupe in Nazi Germany in 1933. Featuring a strong cast of deaf, disabled and non-disabled performers, it is musically lively and historically fascinating. Although sometimes dramatically naive, gradually the show gets under one's skin, building in strength as the stakes rise.

The script was conceived by Hattie Naylor, and written by her and Jamie Beddard. Co-directed by Billy Alwen, Claire Hodgson and Jenny Davies, and staged on a set by Ti Green that with beautiful economy accommodates bleachers, big top, backstage and showtime, it takes a while to gel. The opening number lacks sufficient oomph. We are nevertheless immediately drawn to the titular Waldo, played by Garry Robson as a tough, seasoned circus manager whose will is put to the test by political and personal circumstances.

His son Peter (Tilly Lee-Kronick), an unloved dogsbody with aspirations to be in the spotlight, eventually slides into the ugly role of Nazi brownshirt. Other troubling ambiguities swirl around Waldo. His star attraction Krista (Abbie Purvis, forthright and glamorous) finds decisive stumbling blocks in her budding romance with the strapping Gerhard (Lawrence Swaddle), a green yet gifted circus newbie who brings with him a load of fascist family baggage.

Charles Hazlewood's score, played by a three-piece band positioned above stage centre, shifts neatly from anthemic declarations to hymn-like classicism. Mirabelle Gremaud, as a visionary contortionist, brings punkish urgency to her solo number. Even better is Raphaella Julien's angry, anguished *The Disappeared*, a song initially delivered solely in BSL but followed up in English as an eloquently poetic chorale. Meanwhile, the best and most character-revealing circus routines involve Lee-Kronick's Peter, whether in a tender trapeze duet with Jonny Leitch or a startling aerial solo that opens Act II.

There are plot contrivances and flat spots. Some characters are better developed than others. Still, *Waldo's* has real reach. This is a big-hearted and important work that laments past atrocities against people punished for being different and unique, and champions their continuing and greater visibility.

**To April 1, bristololdvic.org.uk. Touring to June 7, extraordinarybodies.org.uk**

## classical

### RPO/Petrenko

Royal Festival Hall
★★★☆☆

What had happened to Beethoven's Ninth? Textures and dynamics had been vigorously overhauled. Eight horn players, not four, blasted away. Countermelodies sprouted like weeds over what had previously been spartan terrain. String players pirouetted on high. A second timpanist popped up; also a tuba, not an instrument with which Beethoven had ever shaken hands. Climaxes were beefier, sometimes verging on shrill.

Mahler had happened, in a word. For what Vasily Petrenko and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra performed was the reorchestrated version the composer/conductor presented in Vienna in 1900 in an attempt to bring a 76-year-old work sonically up to date and recalibrate quirks that might have been caused by Beethoven's deafness. "Sheer aberration and barbarism," one critic said at the time, though in a warmly received but rather faceless performance I was glad to have Mahler's garish company, even when the woodwind weeds choked. At least something unusual was happening.

Substituting for an unwell Andrew Davis, Petrenko struggled to stir up tension and pep. The saving grace, once the finale's throat-clearing stopped, was the *Ode to Joy*, with vigorous singing from the Bach Choir and a delightfully friendly opening salutation from the bass-baritone Matthew Brook. Earlier he had been in his comic element delivering the fish song from Mahler's *Knaben Wunderhorn* settings, imitating fish faces along the way.

Wisely this was not attempted by Elizabeth Watts, Claudia Huckle and Nicky Spence in the poignant and devastating soldier-and-lover numbers from Mahler's collection, raided as part of a clever plan to give the *Ode to Joy* soloists something extra to do. The tenor Spence, strong and caustic, was particularly striking in *Revelge*, simulating march steps with tiny shakes of his body. The luminous Watts came off better than Huckle, who bottled up words.

Genuine Beethoven took a turn, too, in his *Fidelio* overture, Op 72, brooding and terse, given a very sharp rendering from Petrenko and the RPO. It was the best-performed stretch of an interesting but patchy night.

**Geoff Brown**

## theatre

### Black Superhero

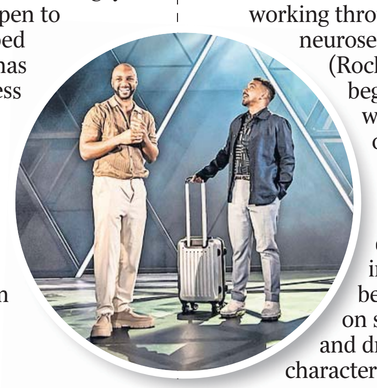
Royal Court Jerwood Downstairs, SW1
★★☆☆☆

Not for the first time, you find yourself wondering about the commissioning and editing process at the Royal Court. Surely someone could have seen, early on, that Danny Lee Wynter's overwrought psychodrama about gay culture, race and representation was a bundle of slogans and clichés.

Apart from the fact that the piece is directed by Daniel Evans — the new co-artistic director of the RSC — the only point of interest is that the cast includes Dyllón Burnside, best known for his TV roles in *Dahmer* and *Pose*. His performance has the poise and nuance that the script so fatally lacks.

Wynter, an activist as well as an Olivier-nominated actor, plays David, a gay, mixed-race actor whose career is stuck in low gear. Though painfully lacking in self-confidence, he turns overbearing and sanctimonious whenever the subject turns to politics or diversity. "Reductive" is his favourite put-down of his black gay actor friends, who happen to include Burnside's ripped American, King, who has found big-screen success as Craw, the central figure in a series of Marvel-type films.

Being in an open relationship, King is happy to express his feelings for David and before long entices him to Australia as a distraction on a publicity tour. King's white partner, Steven (Ben Allen), is not so open to all of this, however, and makes a disruptive appearance down under.



Dyllón Burnside and Danny Lee Wynter

All the while David has been working through his many neuroses with his sister Syd (Rochenda Sandall), who begins to lose patience with him. She is the one connection with the real world in a play that drifts through a rarefied domain whose inhabitants flit between meditations on success, colour, sex and drugs. None of the characters is given room to develop. Eloka Ivo is engaging, though, as David's apolitical pal Raheem, while Ako Mitchell gets plenty of laughs as the rapacious Hollywood insider Kweku. Allen has the most difficult task of all: making Steven's peevish, self-aggrandising utterances sound remotely plausible.

Just when it seems that the script might begin to cohere, Wynter inserts fantasy sequences in which David is confronted by Craw and his acolytes. On Joanna Scotcher's minimalist set, the effect of seeing figures suspended in the air is comic rather than dreamlike. Evans adds a few flourishes elsewhere. But by the end you leave feeling you have been eavesdropping on an overlong therapy session.

**Clive Davis**

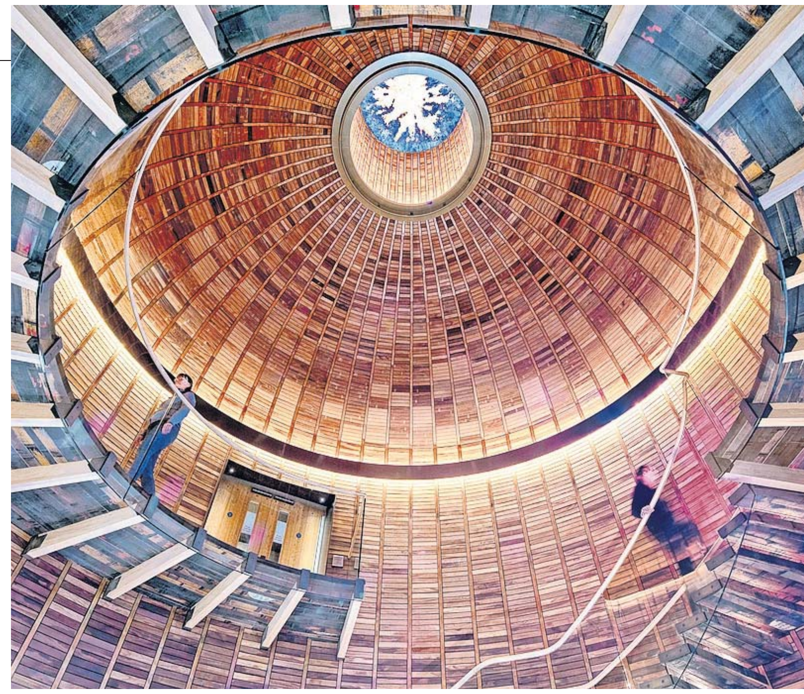
**To April 29, royalcourttheatre.com**

first night

# Soak yourself in history (and whisky)

**A rebuilt Anglo-Saxon royal hall, with attached distillery, entices Jack Blackburn**

SALLY ANN NORMAN; THE BRITISH MUSEUM



**The Ad Gefrin Anglo-Saxon museum and distillery. Below: a silver wrist clasp**

## exhibition

**Ad Gefrin**
Wooler, Northumberland
★★★★☆

When Northumbria's Anglo-Saxons built the royal hall of Ad Gefrin in the 7th century they did not have 21st-century tourists in mind. You can visit the site of the timber palace today, so long as you don't mind sharing your tour with sheep in an open field.

The wood has long since burnt, rotted and vanished. The site, which was one of the great Anglo-Saxon discoveries, is well cared for by a local trust, but the only signs of its former grandeur are lines in the grass. Now, 1,400 years on, a new local power has tried to fill that gap. The Ferguson family, they of the national haulage firm, have built a museum to tell the story of Anglo-Saxon Northumbria and recreate Ad Gefrin's royal hall. Somewhat incongruously they have built it with a whisky distillery to provide more income.

On paper the brief is exciting yet concerning: this would prove to be either a little gem of a place or a rich man's vanity project. Fortunately, it is anything but the latter. The Fergusons have delivered a museum where the enthusiasm for its story pings off the walls.

First they have built a stellar site in the town of Wooler, near Berwick. Stylish and modern, it seeks to recreate the past by using all the mod cons, rather than toe-curling "ye olde" fakery. You see this in the reconstruction of the lost hall of King Edwin, which is half achieved in the room through replica columns, thrones and other set dressing. But the depth of it comes through CGI projections, which introduce you to the world of Ad Gefrin.



It's an eye-catching hook for tourists, but for history buffs the real attraction is next door. A small exhibition space has been furnished with treasures from Ad Gefrin and wider Northumbria, many of them from the British Museum and the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. There are stunning pieces. The highlight is the Castle Eden claw beaker, which was found 250 years ago but looks as if it has just come from the glassworks of Provence, and remains a thrillingly intricate piece of design.

The mundanity of other items closes the millennium-and-a-half gap between then and now. It takes a second to recognise a tiny piece of metal that looks oddly familiar, but it is a bridge from a stringed instrument, almost identical to the wooden one on a childhood violin.

Colourful wall depictions guide you through the story of Ad Gefrin, and do so with clarity of thought and purpose. It shows the vibrancy of Anglo-Saxon life, celebrates its sophistication and lets you recognise that the Dark Ages were not so dark.

Is it the most comprehensive or complete collection? No, but that is very much not the point. This museum has done a lot within its limitations, setting itself up as a new diversion on a well-trodden northeastern route. Hadrian's Wall. Lindisfarne. Wooler? It was never going to rival those for cachet, but if you're a history hound on the trail you could do far worse than while away a quick hour here. It should put a smile on your face, and a dram of whisky in your belly.

**Opens tomorrow, adgefrin.co.uk**

## pop

**Underworld**
Royal Albert Hall
★★★★☆

I have not seen so many excited middle-aged people since the John Lewis sale. The Gen X ravers were out in force at this fantastically warm display of arena electronica, part of the Albert Hall's string of concerts in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust. We're more used to seeing the likes of the Who and Paul Weller play these shows, but I suppose Underworld could now be classed as a heritage act — it's almost 30 years since they released their *Dubnobasswithmyheadman* album. Not that the performance or the reception suggested anything other than joy and full-blooded commitment. As dancers gurned through clouds of dry ice, it was easy to forget we were in the home of the Proms.

The singer Karl Hyde and the composer Rick Smith entered to *Caliban's Dream*, the winsome ambient choral piece they wrote for the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympics, of which Smith was musical director. It wasn't long, though, before the first throbbing bass of *Juanita 2022* was being greeted by a roar. Smith, a professorial figure behind a bank of machines, has perfected the art of atmospheric build-up and ecstatic release, and Hyde's spectral streams of consciousness dovetail wonderfully with those crowd-pleasing dynamics.

Many of their tracks are built around simple but stirring synth motifs, from the radiant *Push Upstairs* to the *Dark Train* remix of *Dark and Long*, which soundtracked Ewan McGregor's cold turkey scene in *Trainspotting* and has become a highlight of their live performances. So monumental were those chords that the crowd started singing them. Hyde was as impish and engaging as ever, gliding across the stage during *Mmm … Skyscraper I Love You* and losing himself in a dadaist rant on *King of Snake*.

A minor quibble: did they need to end with *Born Slippy*? Another *Trainspotting* anthem, it's in danger of becoming a song they feel obliged to play but whose appeal has cloyed. Compare it with *Rez* and *Cowgirl*, the intense diptych that came before, which are even older but sound hypnotically fresh three decades on.
**Ed Potton**

**Junction 2, London, July 21, and Secret Garden Party, Cambridgeshire, July 22, underworldlive.com**



# A finale as predictable as Alan Sugar's puns

**Carol Midgley**
TV review



**The Apprentice**
BBC1
★★☆☆☆

**Inside Taiwan**
BBC2
★★★★☆

Have you been following **The Apprentice** or would you not recognise any of this series' contestants if they bit you on the bottom? If the latter, I know what you mean. They all tend to meld into one egotistical lump after 17 series, with even the recent "scandals" (such as two candidates "romping" in the house despite a sex ban) not making the watercooler gossip they once would.

At least Marnie Swindells and Rochelle Raye, this year's two finalists, had some oomph about them. (Spoilers ahead…) Swindells wanted Alan Sugar to invest £250,000 in her boxing gyms, while Raye wanted him to partner her in a range of hair salons.

"I've always been known to be a gambler," Sugar told them before pointing his stubby finger to reveal who was hired. He picked Swindells, a court advocate from London, and her plan that did seem the better thought-out one, to be fair. "I'm not selling fitness I'm selling feelings," she said.

Every final of *The Apprentice* has exactly the same heavy "last day of school" vibes. The headteacher relaxes the stern act and joshes with his teachers (Karren Brady and Tim Campbell) and the kids who have spent 12 weeks at each other's throats start being nice and normal to each other, as if suddenly released from their "behave like annoying tossers at all times" contracts.

It's obviously a winning formula, but it's as wearily predictable as Sugar's scripted puns. What would be a really good use of Swindells's time? Asking her to find a way to punch some new life (see? We can all do puns) into this old war horse of a show.

Jane Corbin's excellent **Inside Taiwan: Standing Up to China** contained, as one might expect, deeply depressing pronouncements. The Taiwan Strait was one of the most "dangerous flashpoints in the world"; Taiwan is a "cork in the bottle"; anyone who tried to stop China's forced "reunification" with Taiwan risked sparking "Armageddon".

But I didn't expect to find it so encouraging too. First, because of the sheer resilient spirit of the Taiwanese people and their determination to keep their democracy, together with the intelligent steps they have taken to rebuff China's attempt to discredit its government with trolls, ridiculous conspiracy theories and homophobic fake news. And, second, because of how Corbin explained that declaring war on Taiwan would be a huge own goal for China.

Taiwan produces 90 per cent of the world's most advanced chips, which power all our digital devices. If China destroyed these manufacturers it could itself manufacture nothing, its economy crippled. True, it would also send the rest of the world's economy down the toilet, but take the small wins where you can.

Corbin did a thorough, serious job of showing how vibrant and quick on its feet this country is. Meanwhile, China is using deepfakes and spreading disinformation, such as that President Tsai Ing-Wen fabricated her PhD from the London School of Economics (LSE has confirmed it is genuine). Come on, guys, this is easily checkable stuff. All quite reassuringly inefficient really.

MATT FROST



**The Apprentice finalists Marnie Swindells and Rochelle Raye**

## Radio choice
Joe Clay



### Who Killed Aldrich Kemp?
Radio 4, 2.15pm

**Phoebe Fox, *above*, reprises her role as Clara Page in a second series of Julian Simpson's winningly daft crime thriller that takes its inspiration from the great science fiction and spy stories of the 1960s and 1970s. In the first series, the secret service agent Page was on the trail of the super-criminal Aldrich Kemp. We begin with a hungover Page, disguised as a "trolley dolly", her cravat smeared with egg mayonnaise, tracking a Venezuelan assassin through an airport. The target turns out to be Kemp and, after a chaotic series of events, Page is soon looking for his killer.**

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## Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app
**5.00am** Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Chloe Tilley and Calum Macdonald with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley. An insider's take on politics **1.00pm** Ruth Davidson. Covering the big political stories of the week **4.00** Cathy Newman with Times Radio Drive. Friday's headlines and discussions **7.00** Ed Vaizey. The Conservative peer and former MP sits in bringing his take on the day's news **10.00** Henry Bonsu **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

## Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz
**6.30am** The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Gary Davies. Nick Grimshaw chooses his Tracks of My Years **12.00** Jeremy Vine. Current affairs chat **2.00pm** Scott Mills **3.30** Scott Mills' Wonder Years **4.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Michelle Visage **8.30** Michelle Visage's Handbag Hits. Feelgood party classics handpicked by Michelle guaranteed to make Friday night seem fabulous. Michelle's Mood is — Diana Ross **9.00** The Good Groove with DJ Spoony. A mix of soulful house and lyrical garage tunes **11.00** The Rock Show with Johnnie Walker. The host introduces a selection of rock tracks, with Def Leppard's Viv Campbell **12.00** Romesh Ranganathan: For the Love of Hip-Hop. A beginners guide **1.00am** Zoe Ball Meets Pedro Pascal **1.30** Zoe Ball Meets Idris Elba **2.00** U2's Bono and The Edge — A Radio 2 Piano Room Special **3.00** C2C Live — Jordan Davis **3.15** C2C Live — Lainey Wilson **3.45** C2C Live — Matt Stell **4.00** Sophie Ellis-Bextor's Kitchen Disco

## Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz
**6.30am Breakfast**
Hannah French presents the classical breakfast show, featuring listener requests and the Friday poem
**9.00 Essential Classics**
Georgia Mann plays the best in classical music with familiar favourites alongside new discoveries and musical surprises
**12.00 Composer of the Week: Bizet (1838-1875)**
Bizet finally has a hit on his hands, but tragedy lies just around the corner. Plus, we reach *Carmen*'s shocking finale. Bizet (*Djamileh*: Overture; *L'Arlesienne* Suite No. 1: I. Prelude & II. Minuetto; *Patrie* Overture; *Carmen* —Act 4; and Choeur *"Les Éléments"*)
**1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert**
John Toal presents the last recital from this year's Belfast Music Society International Festival of Chamber Music, performed in the Great Hall at Queen's University, Belfast. Beethoven (String Quartet No. 8 in E minor Op 59/2); Howells (*King David*); and Prokofiev (*Romeo & Juliet* Suite op.75. iv. *The Young Juliet*. vi. *The Montagues and the Capulets*. vii. *Father Lorenzo*. viii. *Mercutio*)
**2.00 Afternoon Concert**
The Berlin Philharmonic play Brahms's Second Symphony with Daniel Barenboim. Plus, Dohnanyi from the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, and more Takemitsu from the BBC Philharmonic. Including: Carwithen (Overture, *Men of Sherwood*); Buxtehude (Prelude and fugue in D); Takemitsu (Spectral canticle for vln, guitar & orchestra); Haydn (Overture in D); Jonathan Dove (*Vertue*); Mussorgsky (*Night on a Bald Mountain*); Brahms (Symphony No.2 in D, Op.73); Ingvar Lidholm (*Laudi*); Buxtehude (*Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*); and Dohnanyi (*Variations on a Nursery Song*)
**4.30 The Listening Service**
A guide to music written for weddings or performed at them (r)
**5.00 In Tune**
With MaryAnne Stevens and Karim Kamar
**7.00 Classical Mixtape**
A selection of classical favourites mixed with jazz, folk and music from around the world
**7.30 Radio 3 in Concert**
The LSO's artistic associate, Barbara Hannigan, conducts blissed-out visions of heaven from Mahler and Messiaen recorded at Barbican Hall, London. Olivier Messiaen (*L'Ascension*); and Mahler (Symphony No 4)
**10.00 The Verb**
The poet Testament explores the meaning and power of the sounds we make between words, including sighing and laughing — with Polar Bear (Steven Camden), Jay Griffiths, Shirley May and John McAuliffe
**10.45 The Essay: Thinking Black**
The writer Colin Grant examines the life of the Jamaican politician Michael Manley (r)
**11.00 Late Junction**
Jennifer Lucy Allan shares tracks that celebrate the occult myths. Expect sounds and visions from the Ethereal Transects compilation, an exploration of the folklore behind celestial objects, as well as Psych-prog rock from Yorkshire's the Accent, who offer musical inquiries into the meaning of a red sky at night
**1.00am Composed with Devonté Hynes**
**2.00 Piano Flow with Tokio Myers** (r)
**3.00 Through the Night** (r)

## Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz
**5.30am News Briefing**
**5.43 Prayer for the Day**
**5.45 Farming Today**
**5.58 Tweet of the Day** (r)
**6.00 Today**
With Mishal Husain and Justin Webb
**8.31 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament**
**9.00 Desert Island Discs**
Lauren Laverne talks to the actress and campaigner Liz Carr (11/12) (r)
**9.45 (LW) Daily Service**
**9.45 Breaking Mississippi**
Racial segregation in 1960s America (10/10)
**10.00 Woman's Hour**
Magazine presented by Anita Rani
**11.00 The Battle for Liberal Democracy**
How democracies can offer better opportunities than autocracies (2/3)
**11.30 Lemn Sissay Is the One and Only**
The poet's experience of growing up in care as well as his enduring advocacy for care-leavers. Last in the series
**12.01pm (LW) Shipping Forecast**
**12.04 AntiSocial**
Presented by Adam Fleming (11/12)
**1.00 The World at One**
**1.45 Shock and War: Iraq 20 Years On**
Gordon Corera examines the legacy of the conflict in Iraq today. Last in the series
**2.00 The Archers** (r)
**2.15 Drama: Who Killed Aldrich Kemp?**
By Julian Simpson. ***See Radio Choice*** (1/5)
**2.45 Understand: The Economy**
A look at what has happened to inequality over the last 100 years in the UK (10/15) (r)
**3.00 Gardeners' Question Time**
Experts answer listeners' queries about all aspects of horticulture
**3.45 Sunil Patel: An Idiot's Guide to Cryptocurrency**
Sunil Patel forms a criminal team to attempt the internet's greatest crypto heist (3/4) (r)
**4.00 Last Word**
**4.30 Feedback**
With Andrea Catherwood (3/4)
**5.00 PM**
**5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast**
**6.00 Six O'Clock News**
**6.30 The Now Show**
Stand-up and sketches with Ian Smith, Sarah Keyworth and Huge Davies (2/6)
**7.00 The Archers**
Chelsea has advice for a misguided friend
**7.15 Add to Playlist**
A musical journey of discovery (7/8)
**8.00 Any Questions?**
From Southampton Solent University
**8.50 A Point of View**
A reflection on a topical issue
**9.00 National Health Stories — Omnibus**
Sally Sheard revisits decisive moments in the history of the NHS (1/4) (r)
**10.00 The World Tonight**
With James Menendez
**10.45 Book at Bedtime: Old God's Time**
By Sebastian Barry (10/10)
**11.00 Americast**
Analysis of cultural and social stories breaking in the US (11/12)
**11.30 Today in Parliament**
**12.00 News and Weather**
**12.30am Breaking Mississippi** (r)
**12.48 Shipping Forecast**
**1.00 As BBC World Service**

## Radio 4 Extra
Digital only
**8.00am** Steptoe and Son **8.30** Babblewick Hall **9.00** Act Your Age **9.30** Trevor's World of Sport **10.00** All Things Betray Thee **11.00** Paul Temple and the Geneva Mystery **11.30** Lord of Misrule **12.00** Sweet Sorrow **12.15pm** A Woman on the Edge of Time **12.30** The Wilsons Save the World **1.00** Steptoe and Son **1.30** Babblewick Hall **2.00** Act Your Age **2.30** Trevor's World of Sport **3.00** All Things Betray Thee **4.00** Paul Temple and the Geneva Mystery **4.30** Lord of Misrule **5.00** Sweet Sorrow **5.15** A Woman on the Edge of Time **5.30** The Wilsons Save the World **6.00** Steptoe and Son **6.30** Babblewick Hall **7.00** Act Your Age. With Tom Wrigglesworth, John Bishop and Tom O'Connor **7.30** Trevor's World of Sport. Comedy with Neil Pearson **8.00** The School Is Full of Noises. Ian McMillan investigates bizarre music-making in schools from the 1960s **8.30** That Reminds Me. John Inman reflects on his career **9.00** The Curious Cases of Rutherford & Fry. Why people's stomachs make a noise when hungry **9.30** Lennox. Thriller by Craig Russell. Last in the series **10.00** Comedy Club: The Ultimate Choice. With guests Daliso Chaponda and Chris McCausland **10.30** Beauty of Britain. Beauty embarks on a romance **10.55** The Comedy Club Interview. With Debra Stephenson **11.00** John Kearns. The comedian struggles to enjoy his fantasy day off **11.15** Poets' Tree. Last in the series **11.30** Listen Against

## Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909
**5.00am** The Big Green Money Show **5.30** Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Chiles on Friday **1.00pm** The Footballers' Football Podcast **1.30** Kammy & Ben's Proper Football Podcast **2.00** Elis James and John Robins **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport: The Friday Football Social **9.00** Rugby Union **10.00** Stephen Nolan **1.00am** Laura McGhie

## talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz
**5.00am** Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time with Martin Kelner

## TalkRadio
Digital only
**5.00am** James Max **6.30** Jeremy Kyle **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Plank of the Week **8.00** Friday Night with Nadine **9.00** Serial Killer with Piers Morgan **10.00** The Best of the Talk **11.00** Live James Whale **1.00am** Martin Kelner

## 6 Music
Digital only
**5.00am** The Remix with Chris Hawkins **5.30** Chris Hawkins **7.30** Lauren Laverne **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Steve Lamacq **7.00** 6 Music Festival: Jamz Supernova and Afrodeutsche **7.45** 6 Music Festival: Wu-Lu **9.00** 6 Music Festival: Deb Grant and Tom Ravenscroft **9.15** 6 Music Festival: Loyle Carner **10.30** 6 Music Festival: Deb Grant and Tom Ravenscroft **11.30** 6 Music Festival: Yard Act **12.00** 6 Music Festival: 6 Music's Indie Forever **1.00am** 6 Music Festival: 6 Music's Indie Forever **2.00** Emo Forever **3.00** Focus Beats

## Virgin Radio
Digital only
**6.30am** Chris Evans **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Ben Jones **10.00** Rich Williams **1.00am** Olivia Jones

## Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz
**6.00am** Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** John Brunning **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven **10.00** Smooth Classics **1.00am** Katie Breathwick **4.00** Sam Pittis

# television & radio

## Viewing Guide
James Jackson

### The Cleaner
BBC1, 9.30pm

Top pick

The return of Greg Davies's black comedy, one that divided critics the first time round. It was almost as if the idea of a crime-scene cleaner mopping up blood couldn't possibly be an absurd setting for a sitcom. Well, yes, from that pitch you can see it won't be for everyone. But while it's not perfect, this is just a bit more than another sitcom; rather, it's an anthology. Each episode is like a mini-play in which Davies's man-mountain cleaner, Paul "Wicky" Wickstead, encounters and spars verbally with someone lurking around a crime scene. In this first episode, for example, Wicky arrives at a rough boozer where there has been a fight, ending in a death. The man behind the bar is terrifying and tells him they're opening back up in five. Then the tough-cookie owner, Lisa, shows up, played by the great Harriet Walter. It turns out the 28-year-old dead man was also her lover, prompting a ridiculously awkward monologue by Wicky about their age gap, along with a burble about the corpse's missing ears. Much of the humour comes from Davies's over-the-top performance but what distinguishes the show is the interplay between each episode's eccentric characters ("Every relationship is a deal … do you think your new girlfriend is in it for your good looks, Robert Redford?" Lisa observes witheringly). Future guest stars in this series include Zoë Wanamaker, Simon Callow, Asim Chaudhry and Mark Lewis Jones (as an uptight undertaker).

### Yellowjackets
Paramount+

The first series of this grisly US drama flipped between timelines: 1996, when a high school girls' soccer team becomes stranded in the wilderness after their aircraft crashes, and 25 years later, where they are going to great lengths to hide the hideous things they did to survive. As such it was a hybrid: a *Lord of the Flies* coming-of-age horror colliding with a *Big Little Lies*-type drama. In the present-day storyline we had Juliette Lewis and Christina Ricci among the friends, and the whole thing became a sleeper hit. Now it's back for more — its fans will need no further convincing.

## BBC1

**Early**

**6.00am** Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live **10.00** Crimewatch Live. AN appeal for information. Last in the series **10.45** Critical Incident. Cameras observe Avon & Somerset police officers working the night-time shift **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer. The progress of properties in Hull, Derby and Gillingham (r) (AD) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt. Christina Trevanion hosts the latest contest in Leominster, Herefordshire (r) (AD) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Hope Street. A bullet is fired through the front door of a retired headmaster (r) (AD) **2.30** The Repair Shop. Matthew Nickels pieces together a damaged glass picture window (AD) **3.00** Escape to the Country. Margherita Taylor is in on a property trek around rural Shropshire, helping house-hunters find a country home which that will hopefully fall in love with and buy (r) (AD) **3.45** Antiques Road Trip. Irita Marriott and Phil Serrell arrive in Northumberland, where Phil once again takes a punt on an antique pump (r) **4.30** Bridge of Lies. Quiz show hosted by Ross Kemp (r) **5.15** Pointless. Quiz presented by Alexander Armstrong with Richard Osman (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

**7PM**

**7.00** **The One Show** Live magazine hosted by Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas

**7.30** **Question of Sport** With Steve Harmison, Stephen Warnock, Aimee Fuller and Maggie Alphonsi

**8PM**

**8.00** **Beyond Paradise** Reports of strange lights in the sky above North Farm lead ramblers to a newly appeared crop circle where they find an unidentified man's body. Humphrey finds himself at pains to suppress conspiracy theorists speculating alien involvement while pursuing the case (4/6) (AD)

**9PM**

**9.00** **Would I Lie to You?** With Stephen Bailey, Asim Chaudhry, Gemma Collins and Sally Lindsay (8/11)

**9.30** **The Cleaner** New series of the dark comedy starring Greg Davies, with Harriet Walter and Charlie Rawes. *See Viewing Guide* (1/6) (AD)

**10PM**

**10.00** **BBC News at Ten**

**10.30** **BBC Regional News and Weather**

**10.40** **Shakespeare in Love (15, 1998)** The dramatist suffers from writer's block while working on his new play, and to make matters worse creditors are about to close down the theatre. But when a noblewoman disguises herself as a man to fulfil her dream of appearing on stage, the Bard becomes enchanted by her and is inspired to pen the most famous love story of all time. Period romantic comedy with Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow (AD)

**Late**

**12.35am Michael McIntyre's The Wheel** The comedian is back with his colossal spinning wheel, offering three contestants the chance to secure the final cash prize. Helping them along the way are Jonathan Ross, Vick Hope, Gareth Thomas, Victoria Derbyshire, Tom Allen, Chunz, and Sara Cox (r) **1.35-6.00** BBC News

## BBC2

**Early**

**6.30am** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Gardeners' World (r) (SL) **9.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics UK. The week's political proceedings around the UK **1.00** Impossible. Rick Edwards hosts the game show (r) **1.45** Eggheads. Jeremy Vine hosts the quiz (r) **2.15** Eggheads. Jeremy Vine hosts the quiz (r) **2.45** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. How hard times forced cooks to make the most of what they had (r) **3.15** Eat Well for Less? Jordan Banjo and Chris Bavin help a convenience loving-family to plan more, cook one meal for all and save some of their hard-earned cash (r) (AD) **4.15** The World's Most Extraordinary Homes. Piers Taylor and Caroline Quentin explore four bold and extraordinary homes in Spain, a country renowned for experimental and fearless architecture (r) (AD) **5.15** Flog It! Experts James Lewis and Jonathan Pratt assess items brought to Dover Castle in Kent, while presenter Paul Martin looks at the life of James Bond creator Ian Fleming (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, Jodie Kidd, Jamali Maddix and Suzi Perry (r) **6.30** Coast to Coast Food Festival. Sean Fletcher and Edith Bowman go in search of tips and treats at the York Food Festival

**7.00** **Your Home Made Perfect** Laura Jane Clark and Will Foster compete to remodel a Belfast house with a woman dreaming of a perfect kitchen, while her husband hopes for a cosy home and a safe route to the garden (4/8) (r)

**8.00** **Gardeners' World** As plants begin to show their early growth, Monty Don demonstrates how to make the most of herbaceous perennials, and Nick Bailey shares plans for his new garden in Cambridgeshire, while Frances Tophill discovers more ways to use cut flowers as she visits a florist in Dorset

**9.00** **Becoming Frida Kahlo** Dangerous politics and turbulent love shock the painter's world — after conducting a short affair, Frida finally achieves her own solo exhibition in Europe. But all does not go according to plan, and she returns to find that Diego wants a divorce. *See Viewing Guide* (3/3) (AD)

**10.00** **Cunk on Britain** Philomena Cunk examines the origins of the universe, and interviews Robert Peston about British politics (1/5) (r) (AD)

**10.30** **Newsnight** Analysis of the day's events with Faisal Islam

**11PM**

**11.05** **MOTDx** Football discussion presented by Jermaine Jenas (r)

**11.35** **Eaten by Lions (12, 2018)** When Pete and Omar lose their grandmother, they go in search of Omar's estranged dad. Comedy starring Antonio Aakeel, Jack Carroll and Asim Chaudhry

**Late**

**1.05am Dave** Pressure mounts as Dave records his debut album (10/10) (r) (AD) **1.40** Sign Zone: Surviving the Pay Squeeze — Panorama. Current affairs (r) (SL) **2.10** Parole. The parole board considers the cases of two serious offenders (r) (AD, SL) **3.10-3.45** Our Flag Means Death. Stede vows to make things right (r) (AD, SL)

## ITV1

**Early**

**6.00am** Good Morning Britain. A lively mix of news and current affairs, plus health, entertainment and lifestyle features **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly **10.00** This Morning. Daily magazine, featuring a mix of chat, showbusiness news, lifestyle features, topical discussion, health and beauty advice and more. Including Local Weather **12.30pm** Loose Women. Topical debate from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson and his team of experts assess items at the Tropicana in Weston-super-Mare (r) (AD) **3.00** Lingo. The contestants try to work out words that appear in the Lingo grids and Puzzlewords. Presented by Adil Ray (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot (r) **5.00** The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on one of the Chasers and secure a cash prize (r) **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

**7.30** **Emmerdale** Dawn is aghast that Naomi has fallen for Alex, Paddy is still struggling, while Noah is outraged by Samson's attitude (AD)

**8.00** **Coronation Street** Paul makes a discovery about his injury, Christina arranges a surprise for Daisy's hen party, and Roy accepts responsibility for Evelyn's heartache (AD)

**9.00** **Redemption** Confused about her latest discovery, Colette heads to the hospital where Stacey worked to speak to those who knew her in the hopes of understanding her daughter better. As she pieces together an image of Stacey and her life, something does not quite add up (2/6) (AD)

**10.00** **ITV News at Ten**

**10.30** **Regional News**

**10.45** **Identity Thief (15, 2013)** A con-woman acquires an executive's credit card numbers, and lives a life of luxury at his expense. The outraged victim sets out on a mission to track down the fraudster and bring her to justice personally — resulting in them travelling on a disastrous road trip across America together. Comedy with Jason Bateman, Melissa McCarthy, Jon Favreau and Amanda Peet (AD)

**Late**

**12.35am Teleshopping 3.00** The Jonathan Ross Show. Jonathan is joined by *Love Island* presenter Maya Jama, *Great British Bake Off* judge Prue Leith, the comedian James Acaster. One Direction star Niall Horan performs his new single (r) (SL) **3.55** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00** Ainsley's Fantastic Flavours. Meaty recipes (r) (SL)

## Channel 4

**Early**

**6.10am** Countdown. John Cooper Clarke is in Dictionary Corner (r) **6.50** 3rd Rock from the Sun (r) (AD) **7.40** The King of Queens (r) (AD) **9.00** Frasier (r) (AD) **10.30** Celebrity Undercover Boss USA. The musician Darius Rucker tries to find America's next great recording artist (r) **11.25** Channel 4 News Summary **11.30** Emergency Helicopter Medics. A freak car accident in Cumbria leaves a man fighting for his life (AD) **12.30pm** Steph's Packed Lunch. Weekday magazine show hosted by Steph McGovern **2.10** Countdown. With John Cooper Clarke in Dictionary Corner **3.00** Tool Club. The team completes the renovation of the Many Tears animal rescue centre **4.00** A New Life in the Sun. The season reaches its end for the intrepid expats (r) **5.00** Four in a Bed. The winner is announced **5.30** Come Dine with Me. There is chaos in a recruitment consultant and radio show host's kitchen (r) **6.00** Hollyoaks. Cindy receives a letter informing her that the insurance for the Grand Bazaar has expired, while an emotional Darren is unable to get hold of Nancy (r) (AD) **6.30** Hollyoaks. A helpless Diane struggles to convince Tony to seek help, Rayne tries to make Prince a "viral hit", and Nancy is in need of a miracle (r) (AD)

**7.00** **Channel 4 News**

**7.30** **Locked Away: Our Autism Scandal — Dispatches** Autistic patients, housed within mental health units, tell their stories in their own words

**8.00** **Highclere: Behind the Scenes** The castle manager and his team are awake before sunrise to welcome the crew of the ITV show *Lorraine*, who are broadcasting live from the castle's famous grand saloon to mark the release of the second *Downton Abbey* movie (2/5) (r) (AD)

**9.00** **Gogglebox** The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week

**10.00** **Rise and Fall** Greg James hosts this reality contest, which sees a group of 16 people become part of a social experiment that asks how wealth and power shape the way people behave toward one another. Here, the Grafters complete more Over Time, and there's a chance for one to become a Ruler

**11.05** **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown** Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy words-and-numbers quiz as Roisin Conaty and Joe Wilkinson take on Jon Richardson and Nabil Abdulrashid. With Rachel Riley and Susie Dent are on hand to adjudicate, aided by David O'Doherty in Dictionary Corner (5/6) (r)

**Late**

**12.05am Father Ted** A chance to see the third series of the clerical comedy (r) (AD, SL) **3.50** Couples Come Dine with Me. Three couples compete for the cash prize in Stoke. (r) **4.40** Location, Location, Location. Kirstie and Phil search across two countries for two homes (r) **5.30-6.20** Best of Britain by the Sea (r) (SL)

## Channel 5

**Early**

**6.00am** Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day with co-host Storm Huntley joining him for phone-ins and reading out viewers' correspondence **1.45pm** Home and Away. The news of Ziggy and Dean's baby girl spreads around Summer Bay, while a distressed Eden cannot recall any of her recent past with Cash (r) (AD) **2.15 FILM: Tracking a Killer (PG, TVM, 2021)** When her daughter is accused of murdering a high-school track teammate, a woman sets out to determine who could have framed her. Drama starring Laurie Fortier, Ashton Leigh, Jane Dillon **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Cameras follow a 51-year-old entertainments manager of the popular Villamar campsite in Benidorm, who longs to be with his girlfriend 2,000 miles away in Northern Ireland. There is also a profile of a Scouse singer who is trying to crack Benidorm's entertainment scene, and a woman from Essex who makes her living selling and renting Benidorm apartments (r) **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Cash in the Attic. Helping people make money **6.30** Eggheads. The No Hopers take on the team of quiz titans. Hosted by Jeremy Vine (r) **6.55** 5 News Update

**7.00** **Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders** A team hunts for a gang of ruthless burglars and in a desperate attempt to escape the closing net, the men crash their car and flee on foot. On the motorway a van wheel spins off and strikes an oncoming car (8/8) (r)

**7.55** **5 News Update**

**8.00** **Motorway: Hell on the Highway** A van takes to the air when it misjudges a roundabout near Great Yarmouth, and a terrifying road rage incident is caught on camera in New Jersey. Plus, footage of a Mexican toll booth which is struck at full speed in heavy fog by a huge lorry (3/6)

**9.00** **Amazing Railway Adventures with Nick Knowles** From Lao Cai on the Chinese border, via the misty mountains around Sa Pa, Nick Knowles heads south on a sleeper train to bustling Hanoi. From there he travels on to the port at Haiphong, gateway to beautiful Ha Long Bay (3/6)

**10.00** **Live World Championship Boxing: Lyndon Arthur v Braian Nahuel Suarez** Coverage of the bout for the vacant IBO World Light Heavyweight title at Bolton Stadium Hotel. Arthur bounced back from his first career defeat in a rematch with Anthony Yarde by earning this shot with stoppages of Walter Gabriel Sequeira and Joel McIntyre. He will fancy his chances this evening against an opponent who also has just one professional loss to his name, but is fighting outside his native Argentina for the first time

**Late**

**12.05am FILM: Creed (12, 2015)** The son of a boxer turns to former champion Rocky Balboa for help following in his father's footsteps. Boxing drama starring Michael B Jordan, Sylvester Stallone and Tessa Thompson **2.30** The LeoVegas Live Casino Show **4.30** Parking Hell (r) **5.15** Friends (r) **5.45-6.00** Entertainment News on 5





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# television & radio

## Stalin: Inside the Terror

PBS America, 8.50pm

First shown on the BBC 20 years ago, this is a straightforward but absorbing biography of the Soviet Union leader Uncle Joe, using some excellent rare footage, a sprinkling of dramatisations and commentary from the few surviving members of the dictator's family. It leaves you poleaxed about his ruthlessness and the awful corollaries of his mounting paranoia. Even Lenin wrote, on his deathbed: "Stalin is too brutal. It's completely unacceptable." At their last meeting Stalin's mother told him that it would have been better if he had been a priest.

## Becoming Frida Kahlo

BBC2, 9pm

The marital adventures of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera continue. The Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky arrives in Mexico and begins an affair with Kahlo, which is a bold play given that he is a hero and mentor for Rivera. Not long after she has an affair in Paris with the wife of the writer André Breton. She then realises Rivera is still "the one", but returns to Mexico only to find that he wants a divorce. Keep up! Things improved for the couple, but this vivid profile goes on to chronicle Kahlo's final years, which were spent in terrible pain.

## Drift: Partners in Crime

Sky Atlantic/Now, 9pm

A sleek new German thriller about two warring brothers, Leo (Fabian Busch) and Ali Zeller (Ken Duken), who are also both police officers. They have been estranged for a decade but when Ali finds himself framed for a disastrous police operation that causes a bridge to collapse, killing five people and injuring many others, they are forced to work together. The brothers can't agree on anything but they are both pretty handy when it comes to driving a fast car. And the car chases here have the deluxe, nocturnal feel of a Daniel Craig 007 movie.

## Film The Black Phone

Sky Cinema Premiere/Now, 8pm

A preening Ethan Hawke plays "the Grabber", a child killer in the working-class suburbs of Denver in 1978, in a horror that should be hugely tasteless (it veers close) but is often exquisitely tense. (15, 2022)

## Sky Max

**6.00am** Stargate SG-1 (r) **8.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) (AD) **9.00** Quantum Leap (r) **10.00** Supergirl (r) **11.00** NCIS: Los Angeles (r) **1.00pm** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **2.00** S.W.A.T (r) (AD) **3.00** Quantum Leap (r) **4.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) (AD) **5.00** Supergirl (r) **6.00** Stargate SG-1. The team races to help when Teal'c fails to emerge from the Stargate (r) **7.00** Stargate SG-1. SG Command learns an asteroid is on a collision course with Earth (r) **8.00** Strike Back: Shadow Warfare. The team plans a heist of the Colombian stock exchange to discover Al-Zuhari's whereabouts (r) **9.00** A League of Their Own Road Trip: Southeast Asia. Highlights (6/6) **10.00** Peacemaker. Peacemaker returns, only to discover his freedom comes at a price (r) (AD) **11.00** Banshee. Calvin faces Kurt (8/8) (r) (AD) **12.10am** SEAL Team. Bravo are deployed to northern Syria (r) **1.05** Road Wars (r) **2.00** The Force: North East (r) **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** S.W.A.T (r) (AD) **5.00** Highway Patrol (r)

## Sky Atlantic

**6.00am** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (r) (AD) **7.55** The Affair (r) (AD) **10.05** Gomorrah (r) **12.15pm** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **1.20** Fortitude (r) (AD) **3.25** Gomorrah (r) **4.25** Succession. Logan weighs up a decision (r) (AD) **6.50** Yellowjackets. The girls navigate damning evidence and false alibis (r) (AD) **7.55** Game of Thrones. As the Starks prepare to fight, Davos loses something dear (r) (AD) **9.00** Drift: Partners in Crime. German thriller with Ken Duken. *See Viewing Guide* (1/10) (r) **10.00** Drift: Partners in Crime. Ali is suspended from duty. *See Viewing Guide* (2/10) **11.00** Billions. Chuck discovers that the rival Eastern District has made inroads in the Axe case, while Axe makes an activist play for a family owned bakery corporation. Elsewhere, Wendy faces a moral dilemma (3/12) (r) (AD) **12.10am** Christian. In Italian (r) **1.20** The Plot Against America (r) (AD) **2.30** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **3.40** In Treatment (r) **4.10** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (r) (AD)

## Sky Documentaries

**6.00am** The Story of Late Night (r) **7.00** Discovering: Richard Harris (r) (AD) **8.00** The Directors (r) (AD) **9.00** The 2000s (r) **10.00** The Vietnam War (r) **11.10** First Ladies (r) (AD) **12.00 FILM: Rock and a Hard Place (PG, TVM, 2017)** The lives of young prison inmates participating in a boot camp programme (AD) **1.45pm** My Icon: Johnny Nelson (Pt1) (r) (AD) **2.00** Villeneuve Pironi: Racing's Untold Tragedy (r) **4.00** The Directors (r) (AD) **5.00** Discovering: Richard Harris (r) (AD) **6.00** The 2000s. Political milestones (r) **7.00** The Vietnam War. Hanoi lays plans (r) **8.10** First Ladies. Lady Bird Johnson (r) (AD) **9.00** Dublin Narcos. Last in the series (r) **10.00** Terry Venables: A Man Can Dream. The life of the former football manager (r) (AD) **12.00** Music Box (r) (AD) **1.40am FILM: On the Record (15, 2020)** (AD) **3.40 FILM: Pretending I'm A Superman — The Tony Hawk Video Game Story (12, 2020)** **5.00** Discovering: Richard Harris (r) (AD)

## Sky Arts

**6.00am** Darbar Festival 2022 **7.20** The Royal Ballet in Cuba **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Sigourney Weaver **12.00** National Treasures: The Art of Collecting (AD) **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **2.00** My Greatest Shot: Travel **2.30** My Greatest Shot: Food **3.00** Landscape Artist of the Year **4.00** Discovering: Hugh Grant **5.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **6.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents. Jack kills Phyllis's husband and marries the widow **6.30** Alfred Hitchcock Presents. A gambler convinces himself he has found how to win a bet **7.00** Johnny Cash: A Legend in Concert **7.50** Fleetwood Mac: Live in Boston **9.00** Daryl Hall and John Oates: Live in Dublin 2014. Concert performance **11.10** Toto: 40 Tours Around the Sun. The rock band perform at the Ziggo Dome in Amsterdam **2.10am** The Moody Blues: Days of Future Passed **4.30** Brian Johnson's A Life on the Road **5.30** Video Killed the Radio Star

## Sky Main Event

**6.00am** Live Super Rugby: Crusaders v Brumbies (Kick-off **6.05**). Coverage of the encounter at Orangetheory Stadium in Christchurch **8.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **9.00** Live NRL: The Dolphins v Brisbane Broncos (Kick-off **9.00**). Coverage of the match at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane **11.00** Sky Sports News **2.00pm** Live WPL. Coverage of the Eliminator in the women's T20 competition, held at Dr DY Patil Sports Academy **6.00** Live World Golf Championships: The WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play **7.00** Live WSL: Everton v Liverpool (Kick-off **7.30**). Coverage of the Merseyside derby in the women's top flight, held at Goodison Park **10.00** Live World Golf Championships: The WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play. Further live coverage of the third day's play in Texas **12.00** Sky Sports News **3.30am** Live Super Rugby: Highlanders v Fijian Drua (Kick-off **3.35**). Coverage of the match at Forsyth Barr Stadium in Dunedin, New Zealand **5.30** Sky Sports News

T AUDIO

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## TalkTV

**6.00am** James Max **6.30** Jeremy Kyle. The host covers all the stories you need to know to start your day **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham. A look at the morning newspapers **1.00pm** Ian Collins. Monologues, debates and time for your calls **4.00** Vanessa Feltz. The host guides you through the big stories of the day **7.00** Plank of the Week. Mike Graham presents the ultimate panel show where the guests get to nominate their Plank of the Week **8.00** Friday Night with Nadine. Former Cabinet Minister and author Nadine Dorries presents her take on the week with a mix of topical guests from the world of politics, culture and sport **9.00** Psychopath with Piers Morgan. Through intense prison interviews, Piers Morgan revisits the crimes of convicted serial killers and learns more about their motives **10.00** The Best of the Talk. Join a panel of opinionated famous faces to debate hot topics **11.00** Friday Night with Nadine **12.00** Andre Walker. Today's top stories **1.00am** Vanessa Feltz **2.00** Plank of the Week **3.00** Friday Night with Nadine **4.00** The Best of the Talk **5.00** Cristo

## BBC4

**7.00pm** Top of the Pops. Mark Goodier presents the Prodigy, Maxx, Carleen Anderson, Bruce Dickinson, Gloworm and the Manchester United Football Club squad from May 1994 **7.30** Top of the Pops. Another selection of music performances from 1994 **8.00** Top of the Pops. Richard Skinner introduces performances by Hazel O'Connor, Tony Capstick, Gillan, Lene Lovich, Bad Manners, Shakin Stevens, Landscape, the Polecats and Kim Wilde **8.30** Top of the Pops. Featuring Jim Diamond, Pet Shop Boys, the Real Thing and Diana Ross **9.00** Dolly Parton at the BBC. Archive performances by the country superstar **10.00** Dolly Parton: Here I Am. An intimate portrait of the songwriter, charting the life and music of Dolly Parton and featuring unprecedented access to the singer herself **11.30** Dolly Parton at Glastonbury 2014. The country singer's complete set on the Pyramid stage at Worthy Farm, featuring *Jolene*, *Coat of Many Colours*, *9 to 5*, *Islands in the Stream* and *I Will Always Love You* **12.40am** Country Queens at the BBC. Country music performances **1.40-3.10** Top of the Pops

## Talking Pictures

**6.00am FILM: The Reluctant Bride (PG, 1955)** (b/w) **7.30 FILM: Inner Sanctum (PG, 1948)** (b/w) **8.45** Down to Sussex in 1964 **9.10 FILM: Sailors Three (U, 1940)** (b/w) **10.55 FILM: The Lost Moment (U, 1947)** Romantic drama (b/w) **12.40pm FILM: Bedelia (U, 1946)** Drama (b/w) **2.30** Crown Court **3.00 FILM: The Perfect Woman (U, 1949)** Comedy starring Stanley Holloway (b/w) **4.40 FILM: Train of Events (PG, 1949)** Comedy drama anthology with Jack Warner (b/w) **6.25 FILM: Sewers of Gold (PG, 1979)** Crime thriller starring Ian McShane **8.30** Dial 999. Thieves target a mail train (b/w) **9.00** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **9.05 FILM: The Devil Rides Out (15, 1968)** Hammer horror starring Christopher Lee **11.00** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **11.05 FILM: He Walked By Night (PG, 1948)** Thriller starring Richard Basehart (b/w) **12.45am** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **12.50 FILM: Knock on Any Door (PG, 1949)** (b/w) **2.55 FILM: Gaslight Follies (PG, 1945)** Documentary (b/w) **4.30** One Step Beyond (b/w) **5.00** Target: The Corruptors

## Film4

**11.00am The Holly and the Ivy (U, 1952)** Drama starring Ralph Richardson (b/w) (AD) **12.40pm Detective Story (12, 1951)** Police drama starring Kirk Douglas (b/w) **2.45 Pimpernel Smith (U, 1941)** Second World War adventure starring Leslie Howard (b/w) (AD) **5.15 Hangman's Knot (PG, 1952)** Western starring Randolph Scott **6.50 I, Robot (12, 2004)** A detective becomes convinced that an android has killed its human creator. Sci-fi thriller starring Will Smith (AD) **9.00 A Vigilante (15, 2019)** After escaping her violent husband, a woman makes it her life's mission to help free others in danger. Drama starring Olivia Wilde and Morgan Spector **10.50 The Hunt (15, 2019)** A group of elites gather for the first time at a remote manor house to hunt ordinary Americans for sport. Horror thriller starring Betty Gilpin **12.35am Free Fire (15, 2016)** A meeting between terrorists, gangsters and arms dealers becomes a deadly opportunity to settle scores. Comedy crime drama set in the 1970s starring Cillian Murphy **2.20-4.00 In Fear (15, 2013)** Horror with Iain De Caestecker and Alice Englert

## More4

**8.55am** Kirstie's House of Craft **9.15** A Place in the Sun **10.05** A New Life in the Sun **11.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (AD) **1.10pm** Heir Hunters **2.10** Four in a Bed **4.50** Location, Location, Location **5.55** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. Revisiting Cullercoats on North Tyneside (AD) **6.55** Escape to the Château: DIY. Owners prepare for a wedding day with 45 guests (AD) **7.55** Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets a couple who are building a new house on top of a cliff on the west coast of Scotland (1/7) (AD) **9.00** The Wall: Cover Your Tracks. Celine sees the pattern behind the murders, concluding that her daughter is in danger. Last in the series **10.00** 24 Hours in A&E. A 37-year-old man faces potentially life-changing injuries and extensive surgery after colliding with a car on his motorbike, a 54-year-old will need a pacemaker fitted, and a 27-year-old woman comes to A&E with a wound that will not heal (AD) **11.05** 24 Hours in A&E. A woman is rushed to A&E with signs of a stroke (AD) **12.10am** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the quiz **2.10** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **3.15-3.45** Food Unwrapped (AD)

## ITV2

**6.00am** World's Funniest Videos **6.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records (SL) **7.00** Love Bites (AD, SL) **8.00** Dress to Impress **9.00** Chuck **10.00** One Tree Hill **11.00** The O.C **12.00** Love Bites (AD) **1.00pm** Dress to Impress **2.00** Supermarket Sweep **3.05** Chuck **4.00** One Tree Hill **5.00** The O.C. Adam Brody stars **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase (AD) **7.00** The Masked Singer US. The final two singers perform Christmas songs (AD) **8.00** Superstore. Mateo needs Garrett's help to hide his relationship (AD) **8.30** Superstore. The son of Cloud 9's founder pays a surprise visit (AD) **9.00** Loaded in Paradise. Millie and Amelia are desperate to avoid the threat of elimination **10.00** Family Guy. Stewie gets a medal (AD) **10.30** Family Guy. Peter takes up DJing (AD) **11.00** Family Guy. Brian is forced into being Carter's guide dog (AD) **11.30** American Dad! Double bill (AD) **12.30am** Superstore (AD) **1.30** CelebAbility **2.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

## ITV3

**6.00am** Classic Emmerdale **7.00** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **8.05** Man About the House **9.05** Where the Heart Is (AD) **11.15** Agatha Christie's Poirot (AD) **12.25pm** Heartbeat (AD) **1.25** Classic Emmerdale **2.35** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.40** Midsomer Murders (AD) **5.55** Downton Abbey (AD) **7.00** Heartbeat. Mike has problems when a man held in custody drops dead (AD) **8.00** Doc Martin. The irascible medic and Louisa embark on what seems to be a perfect first date at a classical music performance (5/7) (AD) **9.00** Doc Martin. News of Martin and Louisa's engagement spreads rapidly (6/7) (AD) **10.00** Blue Murder. The death of a mullah in an arson attack throws suspicion on a local representative of a far-right political party, but further investigation points within the Muslim community. Caroline Quentin stars (3/4) (AD) **11.30** Wycliffe. A wealthy businessman is killed and suspicion falls on his son (6/6) **12.40am** Where the Heart Is. David yearns to leave Skelthwaite (AD) **1.45** Man About the House **2.20** Unwind with ITV **2.30** Teleshopping

## ITV4

**6.00am** Dempsey and Makepeace (AD) **7.00** Robin of Sherwood **8.05** Magnum, PI **9.05** The Sweeney **10.20** Minder (AD) **11.25** Dempsey and Makepeace (AD) **12.30pm** Robin of Sherwood **1.40** Extreme Salvage Squad **2.40** Magnum, PI **3.40** The Sweeney **4.50** Minder (AD) **5.50** Made in Britain (AD) **6.55** Made in Britain. A look behind the scenes at British brands, including creating the soles of Dr Marten's, and making Wagon Wheels (AD) **7.55** The Chase Celebrity Special. With Tim Vine, Alice Beer, Ken Bruce and Sonny Jay **9.00** All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite. Hard-hitting action from the world of All Elite Wrestling — the roster features world-class talent including Jon Moxley, Chris Jericho, Bryan Danielson and Claudio Castagnoli **11.05 FILM: Speed 2 — Cruise Control (PG, 1997)** A couple on a cruise liner in the Bahamas have to stop the vessel from colliding with an oil tanker. Action thriller sequel with Sandra Bullock, Jason Patric and Willem Dafoe **1.30am** Auto Mundial **2.00** Motorsport Mundial **2.30** The Protectors **3.00** Teleshopping

## Drama

**6.00am** Teleshopping **7.25** Birds of a Feather **7.55** The Brittas Empire **8.35** Keeping Up Appearances (AD) **9.15** Classic Holby City **10.35** Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** Howards' Way **3.10** Lovejoy **4.10** Peak Practice **5.20** The Brittas Empire **6.00** Keeping Up Appearances (AD) **6.40** Last of the Summer Wine. Compo comes to terms with being less agile (AD) **7.20** Last of the Summer Wine. Compo tries to serenade Nora Batty. Bill Owen stars (AD) **8.00** Father Brown. Suspicious circumstances surround the death of a local fighter (AD) **9.00** Father Brown. A local writer is murdered, leaving Father Brown delving into her novel for clues as to who committed such a crime (AD) **10.00** New Tricks. Jack examines a conspiracy theory the American government was involved in the death of a journalist who witnessed a crash at a US Air Force base (2/8) (AD) **11.20** Cutting It. Sydney's relationship with her daughter is strained by her petty jealousy (4/7) **12.35am** Bad Girls **2.20** Classic Holby City (SL) **3.15** Birds of a Feather **4.00** Teleshopping

## Yesterday

**6.00am** Underground Worlds (AD) **7.10** Train Truckers **8.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **9.00** War Factories **10.00** The World at War **11.00** Joanna Lumley's Japan **12.00** Great British Railway Journeys Goes to Ireland **1.00pm** Great British Railway Journeys **2.00** Bangers and Cash **4.00** War Factories **5.00** The World at War **6.00** Great British Railway Journeys **6.30** Great British Railway Journeys. The role Weymouth played in the D-Day landings **7.00** Joanna Lumley's Japan. Exploring Tokyo **8.00** Train Truckers. A fully restored Class 47 diesel engine is transported to the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway in Derbyshire (1/8) **9.00** Train Truckers. A CBD80 battery-powered loco needs to be hauled 20 miles (2/8) **10.00** Bangers and Cash. Derek picks up some "emerging" sporting classics from the Far East when three Datsun Zs appear (5/10) **11.00** Abandoned Engineering. A set of Second World War sea defences (2/8) (AD) **12.00** Great British Railway Journeys Goes to Ireland. Double bill **1.00am** Forbidden History. Two editions (AD) **3.00** Teleshopping

## Variations

**BBC1 N Ireland**
As BBC1 except: **6.55pm-7.00** Party Political Broadcast (r) **7.30-8.00** Farm to Feast: Best Menu Wins. New series. Cookery competition hosted by Eamonn Holmes **10.40** Keepin' 'Er Country: On the Road Again **11.10** Question of Sport **11.40** Jerk (r) (AD) **12.05am** Jerk (r) (AD) **12.30-12.35** Barra on the Foyle (r)

**BBC1 Scotland**
As BBC1 except: **12.35am** A View from the Terrace. A look at Scottish football (r) **1.35** Michael McIntyre's The Wheel (r) **2.30** Weather for the Week Ahead **2.35-6.00** BBC News

**BBC1 Wales**
As BBC1 except: **7.30pm-8.00** Truckers: Life on the Road. Jagger prepares for his HGV test **9.00-9.30** Legends of Welsh Sport: Gareth Bale **10.40** Would I Lie to You? **11.10** FILM: Shakespeare in Love (1998) Period romantic comedy starring Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow (AD) **1.05am-6.00** BBC News

**BBC2 Wales**
As BBC2 except: **7.00pm** Live Scrum V: Zebre v Cardiff (Kick-off **7.10**) **9.05** Becoming Frida Kahlo. Dangerous politics and turbulent love shock the painter's world. *See Viewing Guide* (3/3) (AD) **10.05-10.30** Coast (r)

**ITV1 Wales**
As ITV1 except: **7.00pm-7.30** Coast & Country

**STV**
As ITV1 except: **7.00pm-7.30** What's on Scotland **10.30-10.45** STV News **3.55am-5.05** Night Vision

**UTV**
As ITV1 except: **6.20pm-6.30** Party Political Broadcast **7.00-7.30** UTV Life

**BBC Scotland**
**7.00pm** The Seven **7.30** Live Sportscene — Championship: Inverness Caledonian Thistle v Partick Thistle (Kick-off **7.45**) **10.00** Still Game (r) (AD) **10.30** A View from the Terrace **11.30-12.00** Growing Up Scottish (r)

**BBC Alba**
**6.00am** Alba Today **5.00pm** Treubh an Tuathanais (Big Barn Farm) (r) **5.10** Pip & Posy (r) **5.20** Sionnach agus Maigheach (Fox & Hare) (r) **5.30** Beathaichean a' Bocadaich (r) **5.40** AH-AH/No-No (r) **5.45** Òrain CBeebies (r) **5.55** Stòiridh (r) **6.00** Aithne air Ainmhidhean (All About Animals) (r) **6.25** @12 (r) **6.30** Damhan & Durrag/Pipas & Douglas (r) **6.35** Ronia, Nighean a' Mheirlich/Ronja, the Robber's Daughter (r) **7.00** An Là (News) **7.25** Dàn (r) **7.30** Machair (r) **7.55** Fraochy Bay (r) **8.00** Fianais (r) **8.30** Golf: Mun Cuairt Alba (r) **9.00** Sorley MacLean (Somhairle) (r) **10.00** State of Happiness (r) **10.45** ALT (r) **11.00** Celtic Connections (r) **12.00-6.00am** Alba Today

**S4C**
**6.00am** Cyw: Shwshaswyn (r) **6.10** Nico Nôg (r) **6.20** Digbi Draig (r) **6.35** Sam Tân (r) **6.45** Ahoi! (r) **7.05** Caru Canu a Stori **7.15** Ein Byd Bach Ni **7.25** Y Crads Bach (r) **7.30** Sion y Chef (r) **7.45** Fferm Fach **8.00** Bing (r) **8.10** Ysbyty Cyw Bach (r) **8.25** Octonots (r) **8.35** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **8.45** Cei Bach (r) **9.00** Guto Gwningen (r) **9.15** Sali Mali (r) **9.20** Sbarc (r) **9.35** Pablo (r) **9.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **10.00** Shwshaswyn (r) **10.10** Nico Nôg (r) **10.20** Digbi Draig (r) **10.35** Sam Tân (r) **10.45** Ahoi! (r) **11.05** Caru Canu a Stori (r) **11.15** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **11.25** Y Crads Bach (r) **11.30** Sion y Chef (r) **11.45** Fferm Fach (r) **12.00** News; Weather **12.05pm** Caru Siopa (r) (AD) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Richard Holt: Yr Academi Felys (r) **1.30** Pobl a'u Gerddi (r) **2.00** News; Weather **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News; Weather **3.05** Gareth Jones: Nofio Adre (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Shwshaswyn (r) **4.10** Caru Canu a Stori (r) **4.20** Nico Nôg (r) **4.30** Pablo (r) **4.45** Ahoi! (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Rhyfeddodau Chwilengoch a Cath Ddu (r) **5.25** Siwrne Ni (r) **5.30** Prosiect Z (r) **5.55** Ffeil **6.00** Nyrsys (r) (AD) **6.30** Adre (r) **6.57** News **7.00** Heno **7.30** News; Weather **8.00** Chris a'r Afal Mawr (r) (AD) **8.55** News **9.00** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer (r) **10.00** Sgorio Rhyngwladol: Uefa Euro 2024 **10.30** Y Stiwdio Grefftau (r) (AD) **11.30-12.05am** Gwely a Brecwast Maggi Noggi (r)

# MindGames

## Backgammon Chris Bray

**The wisdom of Paul Magriel**

It is now five years since the father of modern backgammon, Paul Magriel, passed away. He may be gone but he is far from forgotten. He was the author of the seminal work *Backgammon*. He won the world championship in 1978. Above all he was a brilliant teacher and commentator. Why would a maths professor and chess master decide to devote his life to the study of backgammon? I'll let Paul answer that question in his own words.

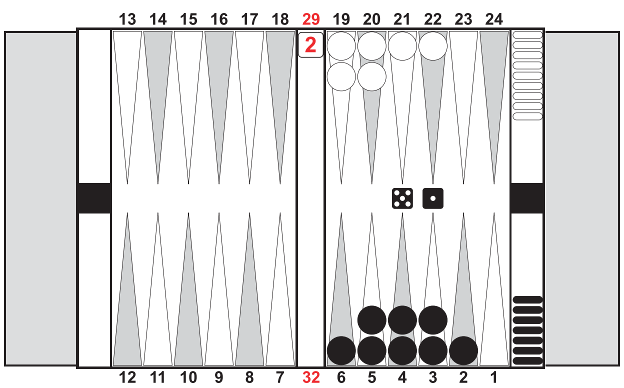
"I'm always at war with luck and disorder. I'm always trying to impose my will over the randomness of the dice, over what seemingly has no structure. I may be sounding sort of melodramatic, but what I'm trying to do in backgammon is create order out of chaos. I guess in a psychological sense, I'm trying to make sense out of the world.

"People think there is so much luck in backgammon. But that is very unfair. They think there is not that much to the game. That is totally false. Backgammon is much, much more difficult, much more complex, much deeper than anybody can imagine. The dice create the surface chaos, which is always riling things up, but there are patterns underneath the surface that involve advanced, beautiful, non-obvious, non-trivial ideas. It's my job to uncover these patterns."

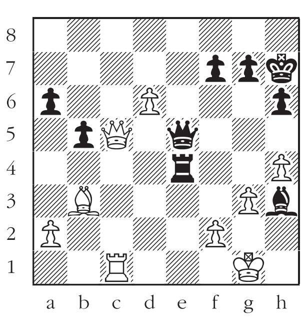
And that is what he did for nearly 50 years. I was lucky enough to have six months of lessons from Paul in 1991. He was always ahead of his time as he ably demonstrated in this week's simple bear-off position.

The obvious 6/off is a bad error. Black is not favourite in the position and so needs his big numbers to work for him, but he also needs his small doubles to play efficiently. The correct move is 5/off, 3/2. Now double twos and double threes work well while he doesn't waste any pips when rolling a six.

Paul's attention to detail was phenomenal and the fact that he talked me through the reasoning for this position more than 30 years ago demonstrated his superb skills. XG confirms the accuracy of Paul's analysis but, of course, Paul was operating in an era when XG was but a pipe dream.



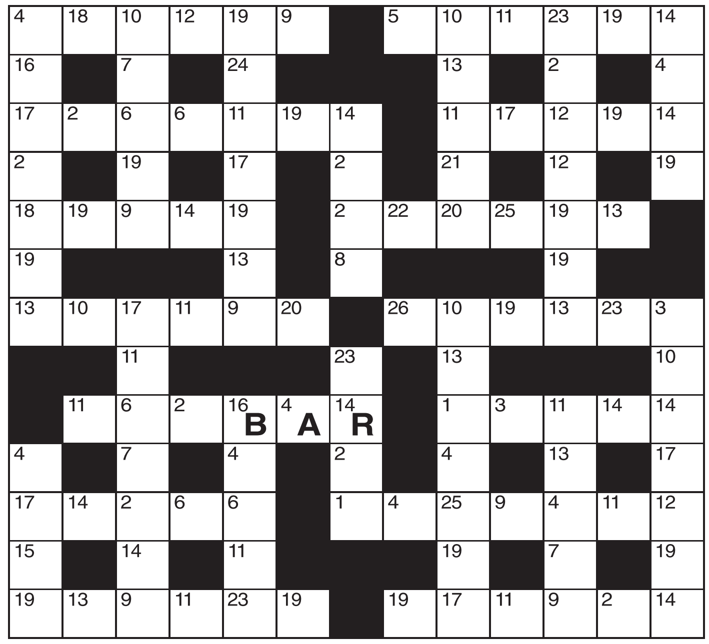

## Winning Move




**Black to play.**
This position is from Jacobs-"Mikheev-76", lichess.org 2023.

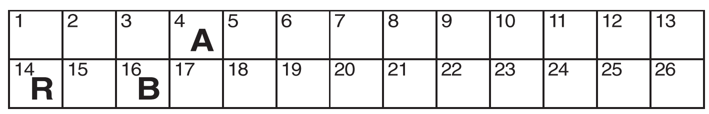
This position is taken from an online blitz game I played as White recently. I thought I was doing well as the passed d-pawn is strong and I plan to exchange queens, which would eliminate any counterplay against my king. However, Black has a sneaky move that I had foreseen but I had missed the clever follow-up. How did the game conclude?

## Codeword No 4857



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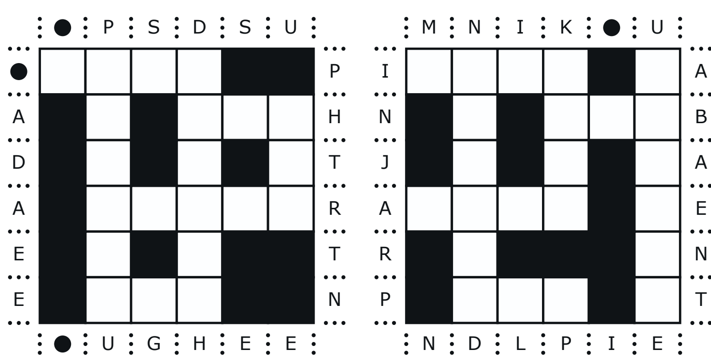
~~A~~ ~~B~~ C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q ~~R~~ S T U V W X Y Z




Every letter in this crossword-style grid has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Yesterday's solution, right*

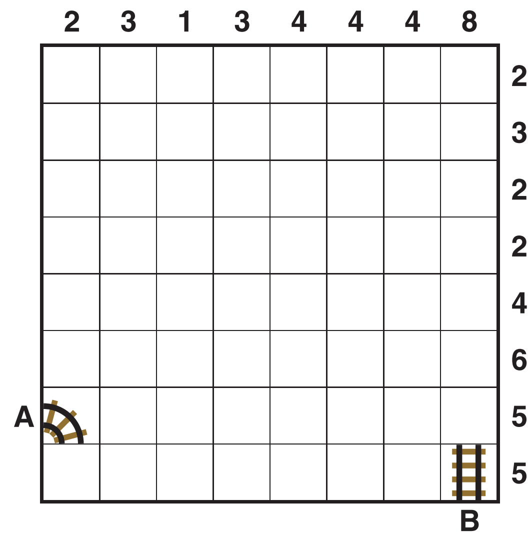
**Cluelines Stuck on Codeword?** To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

## Lexica No 6799 No 6800




Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

## Train Tracks No 1895




Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

## Quintagram®

Solve all five **cryptic** clues using each letter underneath once only

**1** Pay a visit to daughter's offspring (4)

_ _ _ _

**2** Female, senior one holding papers? (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

**3** Lord, let loose, went fishing (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

**4** Staff in centre are eating away (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

**5** Most lively spot for consuming soft pastries! (8)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | D | D | D | D | E | E | E |
| E | E | E | F | I | I | L | L |
| L | O | O | O | O | P | P | R |
| R | R | R | S | S | T | T | Z |

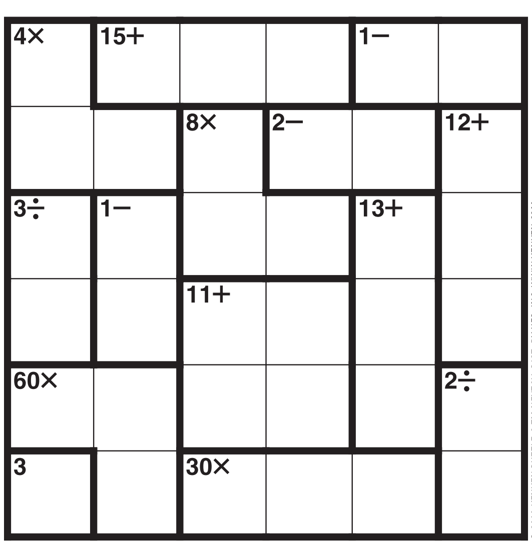
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**What are your favourite puzzles in MindGames?**
**Email: puzzles@thetimes.co.uk**

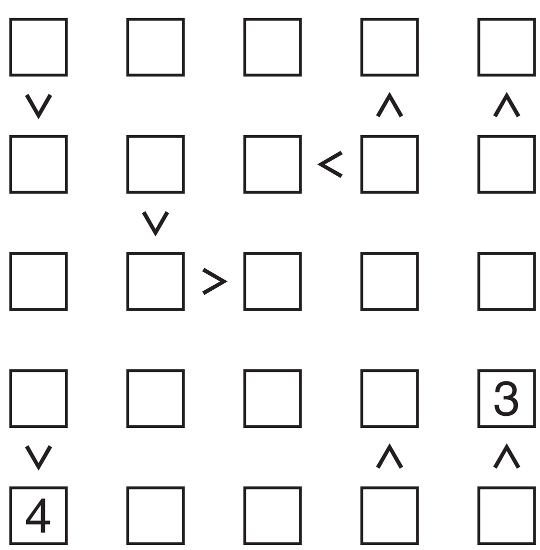
## KenKen Difficult No 5849




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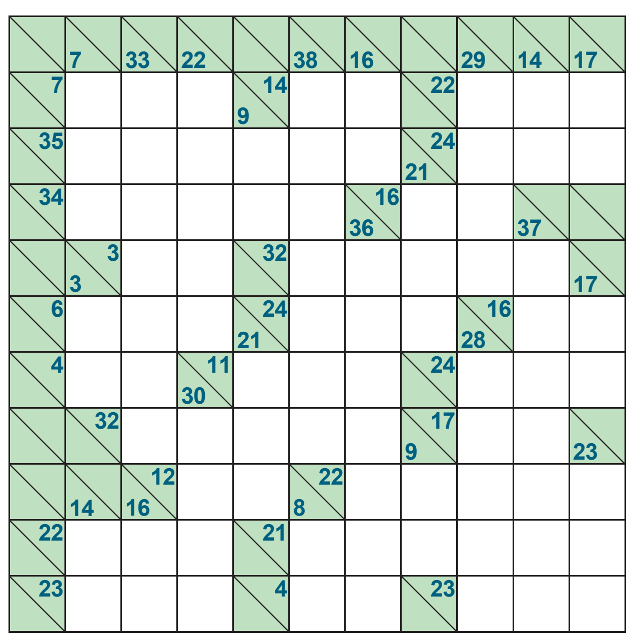
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

## Futoshiki No 4440




Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

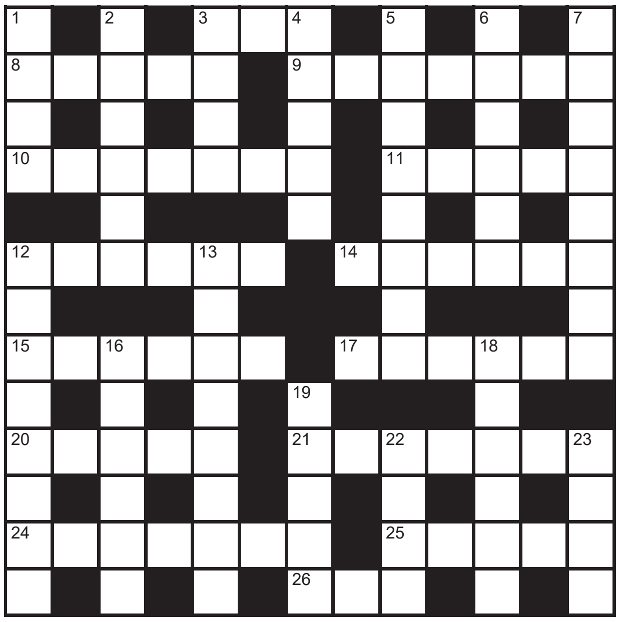
## Kakuro No 3399




Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

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## times2 Crossword No 9173



**Across**
3 Circuit of a racetrack (3)
8 Entertain (5)
9 Successfully earn (7)
10 Piece of kitchen furniture (7)
11 Narrow to a point (5)
12 Twofold (6)
14 Butter or margarine, eg (6)
15 Fee, fare (6)
17 Bed linen (6)
20 Capital of South Korea (5)
21 Large flatfish (7)
24 Deer meat (7)
25 Noble title (5)
26 Dead heat (3)

**Down**
1 Cooking fat (4)
2 Writing desk (6)
3 Camera component (4)
4 Deflect (5)
5 Audacious self-confidence (8)
6 Place of worship (6)
7 Scottish island group (8)
12 Pivotal (8)
13 Lawyer's jargon (8)
16 Quantity (6)
18 Board a vessel (6)
19 Football fans' song (5)
22 Fleshy part of the ear (4)
23 Subtly colour or dye (4)

**Solution to Crossword 9172**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | A | L | L | B | L | A | D | D | E | R | | |
| I | | A | | A | | T | | O | | A | | M |
| L | E | M | U | R | | T | R | O | U | B | L | E |
| L | | B | | D | | A | | R | | B | | D |
| S | H | A | M | | P | I | G | S | W | I | L | L |
| | | S | | C | | N | | T | | | | E |
| S | A | T | U | R | N | | M | E | A | S | L | Y |
| P | | | | O | | L | | P | | A | | |
| L | A | B | O | U | R | E | R | | C | L | A | M |
| I | | R | | P | | N | | P | | I | | U |
| C | H | O | K | I | N | G | | L | E | E | D | S |
| E | | T | | E | | T | | E | | N | | E |
| | | H | A | R | D | H | E | A | R | T | E | D |

**Need help with today's puzzle?** Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

## Bridge Andrew Robson

**Similar ... but different (79)**

"You always tell me to count the opposing high-card points and note if they tally with their bidding," said the student to his teacher. He continued, "But so often they didn't bid."

"Precisely," said the teacher, a Mr Holmes.

Yes — it's often what the opponents *didn't* bid — or lead, or discard — that is as revealing as what they did.

Deal One
Dealer W

North: ♠K973 ♥KJ5 ♦1073 ♣865
West: ♠J85 ♥9864 ♦AKQ ♣1097
East: ♠2 ♥Q73 ♦9542 ♣QJ432
South: ♠AQ1064 ♥A102 ♦J86 ♣AK

| S | W | N | E |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass |
| 4♠ (1) | End | | |

(1) Anyone for 3NT?

West cashes ♦AKQ and at trick four, switches safely to ♣10. As declarer, you win and cash ♠A (preserving both ♠K9 and ♠Q10 finesse positions in case the suit splits 4-0). Both follow, and you cross to ♠K and return to ♠Q, West turning up with ♠Jxx.

Your game depends upon picking up ♥Q, and you have a two-way finesse position. You must guess which opponent holds ♥Q.

Except that it's no guess. You already know which opponent holds ♥Q. West dealt and passed, yet has turned up with ♦AKQ and ♠J. Give West ♥Q as well, and she would have opened the bidding. With East holding ♥Q, you lead ♥2 to ♥K and return ♥5 to ♥J. Game made.

Deal Two
Dealer W

North: ♠K973 ♥KJ5 ♦1073 ♣865
West: ♠J85 ♥10642 ♦AKQ ♣1097
East: ♠2 ♥Q73 ♦9542 ♣QJ432
South: ♠AQ1064 ♥A98 ♦J86 ♣AK

| S | W | N | E |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass |
| 4♠ | End | | |

West cashes ♦AKQ and switches to ♣10. You win, draw trumps (West with ♠Jxx) and know East holds ♥Q — otherwise West would have 12 points and have opened the bidding. You do not have a two-way heart finesse (no ♥10) but the power of ♥98 will be enough, provided West holds ♥10.

Ideally, you drew trumps finishing in dummy with ♠K (or now cross via ♠9), for your first heart play must be ♥J, planning to run it. Assuming East covers with ♥Q, you win ♥A and lead ♥9, finessing through West. You'll run ♥9 if West plays low; if West covers with ♥10, you'll win ♥K, whereupon ♥8 is promoted. Game made.

Note, without ♥98 in hand, you'd have to hope East's ♥Q was doubleton and play out ♥AK.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

## Brain Trainer

EASY 19 → x 2 → + 6 → ÷ 4 → − 6 → SQUARE IT → + 15 → 70% OF IT → ÷ 7 → + 9 → ANSWER

MEDIUM 98 → + 56 → +1/2 OF IT → x 4 → + 78 → 5/6 OF IT → − 89 → 50% OF IT → + 98 → x 2 → ANSWER

HARDER 17 → SQUARE IT → + 436 → 80% OF IT → x 3 → 90% OF IT → +1/2 OF IT → + 999 → 5/6 OF IT → x 3 → ANSWER

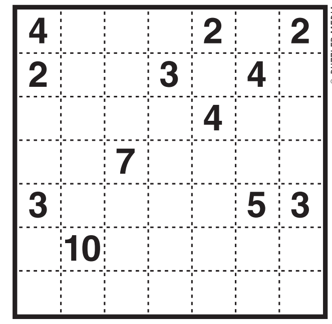
## Polygon




From these letters, make words of **four** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
**How you rate** 18 words, average; 25, good; 28, very good; 32, excellent

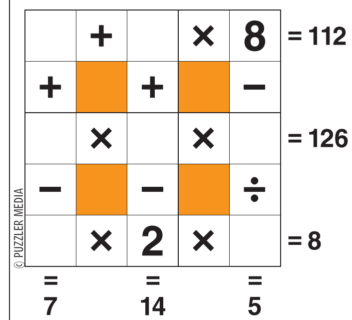
**Yesterday's answers**
cyl, ally, bail, ball, bally, bialy, bill, billy, **billycan**, blain, blanc, blin, call, cill, clan, clay, clinal, inlay, lacy, laic, lilac, lily, linac, liny, nail

## Cell Blocks No 4740




Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

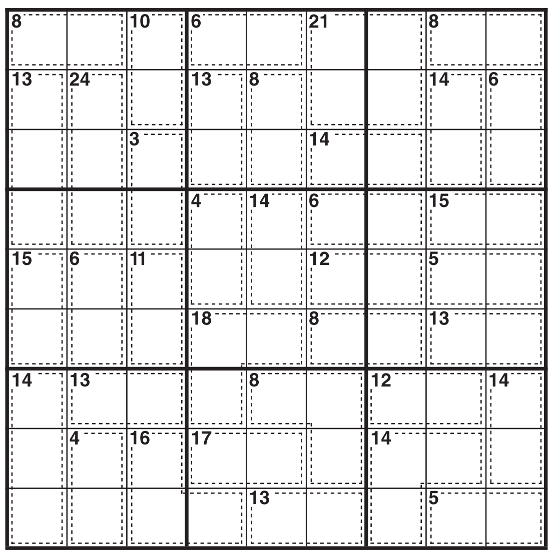
## Set Square No 3402



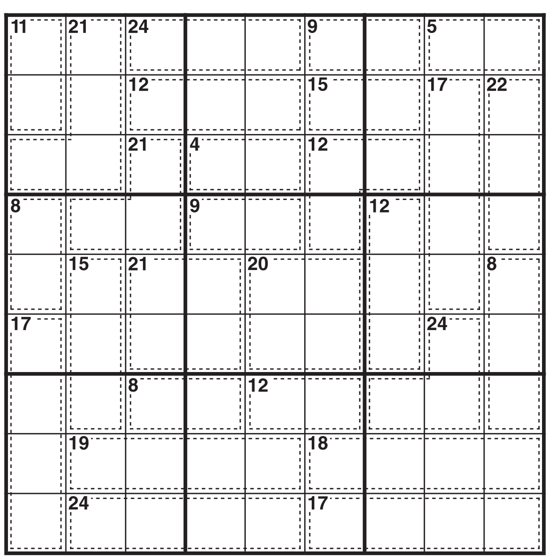

Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

## Killer Moderate No 8795



## Killer Deadly No 8796



As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

**Cluelines** Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

## Solutions

**Quick Cryptic 2358**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | O | N | D | E | R | S | | G | | M | | |
| E | | E | | R | | P | R | A | L | I | N | E |
| T | A | P | I | O | C | A | | U | | N | | N |
| E | | O | | S | | D | E | N | T | I | S | T |
| R | A | T | E | | | E | | T | | | | R |
| S | | I | | D | I | S | P | L | E | A | S | E |
| E | | S | | I | | | | E | | T | | P |
| L | I | M | E | L | I | G | H | T | | A | | R |
| L | | | | E | | A | | | E | P | E | E |
| E | N | I | G | M | A | S | | A | | I | | N |
| R | | R | | M | | P | E | N | A | N | C | E |
| S | T | O | R | A | G | E | | O | | C | | U |
| | | N | | S | | R | A | N | C | H | E | R |

**Codeword 4856**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | J | I | T | T | E | R | Y | | A | B | U | T |
| A | | D | | R | | A | | C | | E | | O |
| S | K | Y | L | A | R | K | | O | C | T | E | T |
| H | | L | | N | | I | | V | | W | | E |
| A | T | L | A | S | | S | C | E | N | I | C | |
| M | | | | C | | H | | T | | X | | S |
| E | Y | E | L | E | T | | B | O | T | T | O | M |
| D | | A | | N | | P | | U | | | | U |
| | F | R | I | D | G | E | | S | L | A | N | G |
| I | | A | | E | | R | | N | | Z | | G |
| B | A | C | O | N | | U | N | E | Q | U | A | L |
| I | | H | | T | | S | | S | | R | | E |
| S | E | E | D | | M | E | A | S | L | E | S | |

**Kakuro 3398**

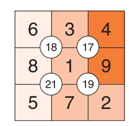
| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 4 | 1 | | 6 | 9 | 8 | | 1 | 2 |
| 7 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | | 3 | 1 |
| | | 2 | 1 | 3 | | | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 4 | 2 | | | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | |
| 2 | 1 | | | 2 | 1 | 3 | | 8 | 6 |
| 1 | 3 | | 1 | 5 | 3 | | | 9 | 8 |
| | 6 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 7 | | | 7 | 9 |
| 8 | 7 | 9 | | | 4 | 2 | 1 | | |
| 5 | 9 | | 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| 9 | 8 | | 6 | 9 | 8 | | 8 | 6 | 9 |

**Sudoku 13,922**

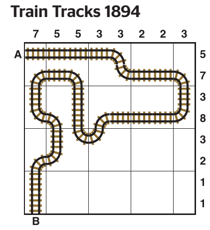
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 1 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 7 |
| 3 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 1 |
| 8 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| 2 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 4 |
| 5 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| 6 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 6 |
| 4 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 |

**Concise Quintagram**
**1** Kid **2** Pablo **3** The bends **4** Computer **5** Amnesiac

**Suko 3758**




**Train Tracks 1894**

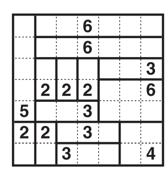



**Brain Trainer**
Easy 13; Medium 942; Harder 8,370

**Sudoku 13,923**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 3 |
| 5 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 4 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 5 |
| 1 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| 6 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 2 |
| 8 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 9 |
| 9 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 7 |

**Cell Blocks 4739**




**Set Square 3401**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | × | 8 | × | 4 |
| + | | − | | + |
| 6 | × | 2 | × | 7 |
| + | | × | | + |
| 5 | − | 3 | × | 9 |

**Lexica 6797**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | | M | | S | |
| S | T | I | C | K | Y |
| C | | L | | I | |
| E | E | L | | D | |
| N | | | | | |
| T | O | E | | | |

**Sudoku 13,924**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| 9 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 |
| 7 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 9 |
| 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| 3 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 4 |
| 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| 8 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 |

**Futoshiki 4439**

1 4 > 3 2 5
(3 ∨ 2; 5 ∨ 4)
3 1 2 5 4
4 2 5 1 < 3
(2 ∧ 3)
5 > 3 1 < 4 2
2 5 > 4 3 1

**KenKen 5848**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12× 6 | 9+ 5 | 1 | 80× 4 | 1− 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4− 6 |
| 8+ 1 | 13+ 4 | 14+ 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| 4 | 3 | 6 | 8+ 2 | 5 | 1 |
| 3 | 2÷ 2 | 4 | 3÷ 1 | 7+ 6 | 1− 5 |
| 60× 5 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 |

**Lexica 6798**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | | | B | | |
| E | | | R | | S |
| L | | B | A | S | H |
| I | | U | | | I |
| E | | R | | | N |
| F | O | N | D | L | Y |

**Killer 8793**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 7 |
| 7 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 2 |
| 2 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| 5 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 3 |
| 3 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| 8 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 5 |
| 4 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 9 |
| 9 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 4 |

**Tetonor 346**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 17 | 30 | 15 | 40 |
| 16 + 1 | 5 x 6 | 7 + 8 | 4 x 10 |
| 21 | 11 | 36 | 16 |
| 7 x 3 | 5 + 6 | 9 x 4 | 1 x 16 |
| 10 | 54 | 14 | 32 |
| 3 + 7 | 2 x 27 | 10 + 4 | 16 x 2 |
| 56 | 13 | 29 | 18 |
| 8 x 7 | 9 + 4 | 27 + 2 | 16 + 2 |

**Word watch**
**Exomis** (b) A Roman sleeveless vest (*Collins*)
**Turnsole** (b) A plant that follows the sun, such as a heliotrope (*Chambers*)
**Brigue** (a) Strife, contention (*OED*)

**Chess — Winning Move**
I had seen 1 ... Re1+! but thought this was safely met by 2 Kh2 (not 2 Rxe1 Qxc5). However, Black now uncorked the ingenious 2 ... Rh1+! 3 Kxh1 (best is 3 Rxh1 Qxc5 4 Kxh3 Qxd6 which is winning for Black but not easy to convert in a blitz game) 3 ... Qe4+ and ... Qg2 mate follows

**Killer 8794**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 3 |
| 3 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 6 |
| 9 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 5 |
| 8 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 |
| 5 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 7 |
| 4 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| 1 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 4 |
| 7 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 1 |

**Cryptic Quintagram**
**1** Seed **2** Folder **3** Trolled **4** Corrode **5** Zippiest

**Quiz 1** Venezuela, as in Hugo Chávez **2** Barbara Cartland **3** Rum. It was created by Chris Blackwell **4** HSBC **5** Fidel Castro **6** Las Vegas **7** Red **8** *Moves like Jagger* **9** *O Canada* **10** *Macbeth* **11** William Holman Hunt. Terry married the painter George Frederic Watts, and they divorced in 1877 **12** "*Hugo — hélas*!" or "Hugo — alas!", as in Victor Hugo **13** Dakine **14** Colin Montgomerie. He was also a runner-up in 1994 **15** Laura Fraser

# MindGames

## Word watch
David Parfitt

**Exomis**
**a** Previously left out or overlooked
**b** A Roman sleeveless vest
**c** Shed skin cells

**Turnsole**
**a** A species of flatfish
**b** A plant that follows the sun
**c** A layabout

**Brigue**
**a** Strife, contention
**b** A two-masted vessel
**c** A broad regional accent

*Answers on page 19*

## Sudoku

### Mild No 13,925

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 7 | | |
| | | | | | 4 | | 1 | 5 |
| | 3 | 1 | | 9 | 6 | | | |
| | | 3 | | | | 1 | | 9 |
| 2 | | 9 | | 4 | | 8 | | 7 |
| 6 | | 8 | | | | 4 | | |
| | | | 4 | 6 | | 3 | 7 | |
| 1 | 5 | | 2 | | | | | |
| | | 4 | 9 | | | | | |

### Difficult No 13,926

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 7 | | 8 | 2 | |
| | | | 4 | | | 9 | 1 | |
| | | | | 1 | 8 | | | |
| | 1 | | | | 6 | | | |
| 2 | | 3 | | | 5 | | 8 | |
| | | 8 | 1 | 9 | | | 3 | |
| 9 | 2 | | | | | | 7 | |
| 7 | 5 | | | 2 | 1 | 3 | | 6 |
| | | | | | | | 4 | |

### Fiendish No 13,927

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 6 | | | |
| | | 2 | | 3 | | 6 | | |
| | 3 | | 2 | 4 | | | | |
| | | 5 | | | | 9 | | 6 |
| | 6 | 8 | | 1 | | | | 5 |
| 9 | | | | | | 1 | 7 | |
| | 1 | | 8 | | 5 | | 3 | |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 | | |
| | | | 4 | 9 | | | | |

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

## The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

**1** Chavismo is a left-wing populist ideology named after a late president of which South American country?

**2** Which English "Queen of Romance" wrote 723 books in her lifetime?

**3** Launched in 2008 by the founder of Island Records, Blackwell is a Jamaican brand of which spirit?

**4** First Direct is a division of which high street bank?

**5** According to Guinness World Records, which Cuban is the longest serving non-royal head of state ever?

**6** The Punk Rock Museum recently opened in which city in Nevada?

MIKE MARSLAND/GETTY IMAGES




**7** In astronomy, the coolest stars tend to appear as which primary colour?

**8** Which song by Maroon 5 and Christina Aguilera is the bestselling single not to top the UK chart?

**9** Which national anthem features the lyrics: "With glowing hearts we see thee rise,/ The True North strong and free!"?

**10** "Screw your courage to the sticking place" is an idiom from which Shakespeare tragedy?

**11** Which Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood co-founder designed Ellen Terry's brown silk gown for her 1864 wedding?

**12** When asked who was the greatest 19th-century poet, André Gide replied with which comment?

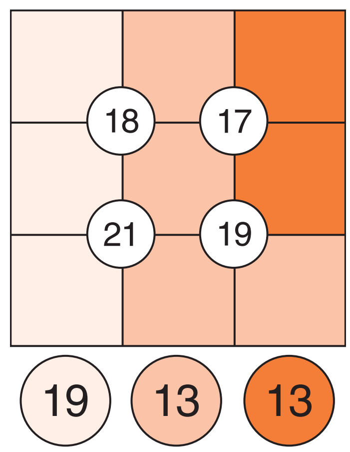
**13** Founded in 1979 by the surfer Rob Kaplan, which Oregon-based brand makes the Heli Pro backpack?

**14** In 1997, which Scottish golfer finished second to Ernie Els in a US Open for the second time?

**15** Which Scottish actress, who played Lydia in *Breaking Bad*, is pictured?

*Answers on page 19*

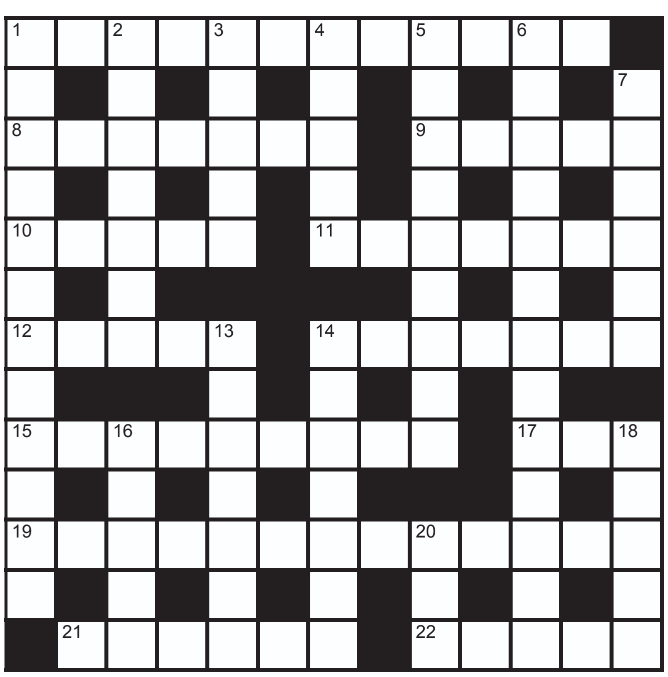
## Suko No 3758




Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

**For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk**

## The Times Quick Cryptic No 2359 by Felix



**Across**
1 What player won't want to receive? Guys maybe fail to answer (8,4)
8 Sound of cattle crossing river by cricket club: love the country! (7)
9 Change your mind regarding university originally chosen for Wales (5)
10 From memory, an Italian native (5)
11 Rugby team, very loud, surrounding one youngster (7)
12 Give out one's petition (5)
14 Had yearning of French father and daughter (7)
15 Asian rips off French people (9)
17 Firm, small lettuce (3)
19 One got our mail redirected to a remote region (5,8)
21 Scandinavian girl maybe riding out (6)
22 Caught in dismay orotund dignitary (5)

**Down**
1 Cartoon character: poet's devil child (5,7)
2 Seafood one's taken from ships crossing border (7)
3 Old Peruvian showing where the baked beans are? (5)
4 A female keeping gents perhaps distant (5)
5 Lifting cap, one means to punch peace-lovers (9)
6 So nicely balanced, my lime crystal shattered (13)
7 Part of garden ruthlessly lifted up and transformed (6)
13 Distraught re nurse, I can guarantee (7)
14 Playing card, most valuable one? (7)
16 Rodent performing in shop (3,2)
18 One on flight to look hard when speaking (5)
20 Stick something in one's mouth (3)

*Yesterday's solution on page 19**

